Daily Report

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FBIS-LAT-90-225 *21 November 1990*

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Cuba

Rationale for Economic Austerity Discussed

PA2011151890 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Commentary by Roberto Morejon]

[Text] The lack or delay of numerous products is noticeable in Cuban markets, where lines of people are a daily event. The principle of making equal distribution of limited articles and the efforts to reduce crowding at sales stands, as much as possible, have led to the decision to add new products to the island's current rationing system.

The country's leadership, with the Cuban Ministry of Domestic Trade's most recent measures, decided to put an end to the parallel market, which was made up of commercial centers where the people were able to obtain, without restrictions, a host of products. Rationed sales, which are regulated, now have become the only way to obtain food and other consumer goods, with only a reduced number of items available on the free market. This decision is the only possible way to ensure that the more than 10 million Cubans have guaranteed access to whatever food and other articles are available.

Cuba is going through a very special peacetime period due to a stepped-up U.S. blockade; cancellation or delays in supplies from East Europe, especially from the Soviet Union; and the inability to establish new commercial agreements with Europe and Japan because of a lack of foreign currency. Ever since the worldwide liquidity crisis in 1982, the foreign debt problems of the poor countries have worsened. Cuba was no exception, and since that time the island has become more dependent on the East European countries. The collapse of the former socialist sector was an unexpected blow to Cuban trade, as 89 percent of foreign trade was with East Europe. The results are for all to see—shortages in fuel, food, clothing, and certain services.

Therefore, Cubans have concentrated on what is essential, such as the food program, which must offset current supply shortages from abroad. Until the plan yields its results, the most elemental justice prevails: Supplies are distributed on an equal share basis.

U.S. Determination To Unleash Gulf War Alleged

FL2011150590 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1255 GMT 20 Nov 90

["Our Opinion" commentary written by Jose Armas and read by Roberto Canela]

[Text] This commentator believes that the U.S. Government is making a big effort not to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis but, to the contrary, is trying to unleash war. I also believe that, weighing the facts objectively, there are very few possibilities that the U.S. Administration will not achieve this goal.

Former President Carter made a very sharp observation yesterday. Carter said Bush has placed himself in a position that is very difficult to get out of when he said he will never negotiate with Husayn before Husayn totally surrenders. Negotiate after a surrender? This view is absolutely incoherent because one does not negotiate with the defeated party but makes unconditional demands.

The problem does not lie on an unfortunate judgment which can be reconsidered. The bottom line is that President Bush, as we understand it, wants to get the maximum compensation for his war effort in the Gulf. Thus, his unwillingness to hold talks. In a few words, what Bush wants is not a return to the status prior to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait but the elimination of the Saddam Husayn government.

The latest events show this. On Sunday, Iraq decided to free all hostages within a three-month period. The United States termed the initiative as a cynical manipulation. Nevertheless, Baghdad said the gesture attempted to alleviate the prevailing state of war and pave the way to some type of peace talks. Regardless of other considerations, the U.S. attitude disregarded—perhaps deliberately—a good sign.

At the same time, Washington has launched a crusade to find international authorization of the use of force against Iraq. It has consulted the Security Council members, including the 10 nonpermanent members. The position of the countries with the right of veto in the Council could be summed up in the following way; the UK totally supports Washington and believes that the current anti-Iraq coalition is already authorized to unleash war; France believes that the UN-sponsored embargo is the best way to force Husayn to withdraw from Kuwait but alleges that other routes need to be analyzed; the Soviet Union believes that a negotiated solution is still feasible and defends this stance although it admits the possibility of the use of force authorized by a UN resolution; finally, China favors greater efforts in finding a peaceful solution to the conflict in line with the Security Council resolutions.

Could the United States get a favorable vote for a draft resolution on the use of force against Iraq? We believe it would be able to achieve it in the long run. Then, what needs to be considered is not the military action but what would come later. Anything that is said about it would be, at the most, pure speculation.

* UPEC President Discusses Press Openness

91CA0016A Havana JUVENTUD REBELDE in Spanish 21 Oct 90 pp 8-9

[Interview with Julio Garcia Luis, president of the Union of Cuban Journalists (UPEC), by Joaquin Borges Triana; place and date not given; first two paragraphs are introduction]

[Text] "The professional work of the journalist must be respected, because it is intellectual work, and unless he has creative freedom, the results will not be authentic. Just as a literary work is inconceivable if the writer is subject to interference and meddling in his work, the journalist also needs leeway to do his job. If this does not exist, there is not and never will be openness in the press."

The above assertion was one of the most clearly stated conclusions that I heard from Julio Garcia Luis, the president of UPEC, during an extensive and substantial conversation that we had on the controversial issue of the mass media. There has been a great deal of discussion on this matter, and today we all know what is working and what is not.

[Borges Triana] As regards the convocation of the Fourth Congress of the Party, the press has been called upon to overhaul itself. There has been a push for a transformation of the mass media on several previous occasions. In the past this has not yielded the expected results. In your opinion, why haven't these appeals for openness in the news succeeded?

[Garcia Luis] Look, we've added up the numbers, and there have been no fewer than four previous attempts to transform the mass media. An awareness developed in the early 1970's that the press model that was being used in the country had already exhausted its potential and was not in keeping with the demands of economic and social development in Cuba. At the closing session of the Second Congress of UPEC in 1973 Armando Hart delivered a speech that we can agree with line by line as regards the sort of journalism to which the Revolution ought to aspire.

Later, as a result of negative situations that appeared in the country, a Political Bureau resolution again called for criticism in the mass media. There was another resolution from a plenum of the party Central Committee that looked into what the role of a remodeled press ought to be in the country. In 1980, at the Fourth Congress of UPEC, Raul Castro gave a brilliant speech and outlined a program for transforming the press. As you can see, almost 20 years ago our top leaders realized that the sort of journalism that was being practiced in Cuba had to be overhauled, that its style and content had to change.

Nonetheless, in spite of the political authority behind these pronouncements, the press was not transformed. I offer the following explanation about all this. It so happens that our society has grown more complicated, and we have come to a time when interests have developed, and these interlocking interests are capable of paralyzing the finest of projects unless the political will can be summoned up so that change can be forced through.

Previous attempts did not achieve this. Don't forget that there are forces of resistance, of inertia in society. I also think that those attempts failed because they looked at the press in isolation from the social context, and in a country like ours the press will not change unless it is part of a transformation of society. Moreover, I would tell you that those attempts were, to an extent, reductionist because they narrowed down change just to criticism, and our problem is much more complicated. This simplistic approach did not address our main shortcoming, that is to say, a lack of information and the quality of the press as such.

[Borges Triana] Julio, I should ask you, then, whether at present there is any particular factor that might prevent the same thing as in the recent past from happening again.

[Garcia Luis] The new development now is that the process of change in the press today is supported by the process of rectification and, therefore, is seen as part of a comprehensive transformation of the country. I am convinced that the process of rectification will not have a solid, lasting foundation unless a sweeping, permanent change in the press is achieved. Therefore, I feel encouraged that this time the opening is not going to be thwarted, although in my judgment these transformations have been undertaken in quite difficult times, and I confess to you that we have achieved less than we anticipated four years ago. But we have achieved something, because the idea of overhauling the press has not been discredited, and the project remains alive.

[Borges Triana] There is an aspect of your response that I would like to go into more deeply. In my view, the appeal for this opening could not have come at a more difficult time. The objective problems besetting the country are many and are going to worsen in the future. I'm worried that these difficulties will also serve to conceal a number of subjective views that riddle our efficiency in all sectors.

[Garcia Luis] Yes, I agree with you. The times couldn't be more complicated, and at the same time the need is greater than ever now. In previous years we assumed that we had a socialist press that was well-suited to our needs because we compared it to the press in the Eastern European countries.

In my opinion, if there's anything that life tells us eloquently, it's that the press model that we could describe as government-supporting, apologetic, or conveying unanimity has exhausted its potential. This doesn't mean that we ought to follow the path that the Eastern European countries have now chosen. They have virtually chosen to imitate the Western press model. We're at the point that we realize that socialism's previous press model does not work for us, but we aren't going to adopt the capitalist one either. We have to seek our own, one that is in keeping with a single-party political system and that can nevertheless foster a press that is authentic. This is our challenge: to show that socialism is capable of fostering a legitimate press without renouncing the Revolution and its principles.

[Borges Triana] There's an issue that I see as vital in connection with this. All over the world there is an

official press and an unofficial press. Although in theory we too have this division, and what is more, we have a press structure in which supposedly each organ matches the characteristics and interests of the organization that it represents, in practice this differentiation among the media has not been achieved. Why?

[Garcia Luis] It has to do with the siege conditions under which the country has lived. From the unity among revolutionaries in dealing with the life-and-death problems that we had and have to face we derived a false unanimity on matters and issues on which it was neither needed nor indispensable nor realistic. This is one of our society's biggest problems. Therefore, the press in Cuba often gives the impression that all organs say and think the same things, which is not true. We've tried, sometimes in a ridiculous way, to make people speak artificially, using expressions that are not in keeping with the traditional language of Cubans.

I think that in a country like ours one cannot believe that there is room for the opposition in the press. U.S. hostility towards Cuba polarizes things into Revolution and counterrevolution, even beyond our desires. Now then, we shouldn't identify the revolutionary nature of the press with its official nature. There must be a place for the official press, GRANMA let's say. There is no reason for the rest of the media to take the government's position. It is in these organs that we ought to make room for the different views of society to express themselves.

With a single party we have to show that we can foster a diversity of viewpoints. I would go farther: given the events in Eastern Europe, if we're capable of answering your question, I think that we would be doing an enormous service to socialist ideas. If we're capable of fostering a press that offers a real social debate, it would be a very great contribution to revolutionary ideas. Moreover, we have no alternative, because anything else would mean stagnation and regression.

[Borges Triana] In my judgment, in order for the press to discharge its function there has to be an elementary culture of news in society, and unfortunately this does not exist among us. I would like to hear your thoughts in this regard.

[Garcia Luis] What you say is true. I share this view. For years we ignored the concept of news as a public good. A sort of administrative control was established over the news. This has done a great deal of harm, and it's part of the paternalism that exists in our society and that the press has also suffered from. Institutions and agencies that generate news set themselves up at the same time as its administrators.

From a political standpoint this is dangerous, because it is tantamount to making the same person judge and jury, since the same organization controls what is going to be said about its performance and in what way the news will be reported. This authoritarian, bureaucratic, or paternalistic distortion, or all three at once, has left a mark that is not easy to erase: the tendency to meddle in the handling of news.

Some progress has been made, true, but there is still not a culture of news. Everybody thinks that they own it and that they can deny it to newsmen, and what is most disgraceful, newsmen feel that they're not entitled to receive information.

[Borges Triana] I think that in order for the press to be truly in tune with public opinion it has to be acknowledged as a major shaper of the news that ought to appear in the mass media. This is a political assumption that appears in the Party Program. Yet it is not being observed. Why is this the case?

[Garcia Luis] One of the main shortcomings of our press until recent years was its almost total divorce from the voice of the people, that is to say, the lack of involvement of the masses in the media. This has been alleviated with some media spots in which the people can see themselves and express themselves directly on a given problem in our country. Our radio stations have made quite a bit of progress in the direction of involving the people.

This is one of the most direct ways in which the press can echo public opinion and act on it. In the past we replaced the genuine participation of the people in the mass media with a sort of popular rite or pseudo-poll in which everyone said the same thing. When there was some special reason for appealing to the population for support on a certain issue, it was common to see in newspapers a string of little interviews in which people would say more or less the same thing, in affected language, using set phrases in support of a position. Owing to its news-related shortcomings our press developed a propagandistic, agitative reporting style. It made up for its lack of news and content with appeals, calls, and rallying cries.

This logically heightened the divorce from and even at times the contradiction with public opinion. This style neglected an analysis of the people's opinions in connection with the media. The consequence was a cumulative lack of social research into the press as well. We're now trying to spur the use of scientific-research methods to ascertain the public's views and, on that basis, to orient the work of the press.

[Borges Triana] I agree that public opinion has more of a presence now on radio and television. I think, though, that this is not the case in the press.

In our sector there are those who explain this by saying that news over the radio comes and goes quickly and does not afford the chance of a second reading. Another argument is that the people in charge don't have the time to listen to the radio but receive newspapers every day in their offices and therefore the press has to be more

conservative. What do you think about these theories and what explanation is there for this inequality among the media?

[Garcia Luis] There is a fact we must consider here. In a way, radio and television make greater use of this participatory style because of the very nature of these media. I have often heard the theories that you mention. I think that this may be a factor, but I don't think that it can be singled out as the cause. I'm quite familiar with some of the groups and leaders working in radio and television, and I can tell you that what Radio Rebelde, for example, has achieved in designing its programs and in seeking out, researching, criticizing, and involving the people is the fruit of very hard work. If someone were to tell me that the station did what it did because the leaders listen to it less than they read the press, he would unquestionably be wrong.

This hasn't happened in other media because the element of change, which people have to contribute, has been lacking.

[Borges Triana] Julio, two-thirds of Cuba's current population was born after 1959. This means that most of the consumers of our publications are young people whose upbringing is different from that of their parents. Yet the same headlines as in the 1960's, outdated graphic design, and the hammy language of that era are still being used. Is this any way to arouse and satisfy our new readers' eagerness for news?

[Garcia Luis] No, no...I think that one of the factors that doomed the initial attempts to change the press in Cuba was precisely that change was viewed only from the angle of using criticism, and this is a much more comprehensive phenomenon. What is required is a transformation of professional methods, an updating in tune with the experiences that are in the vanguard worldwide. In contrast to other forms of journalism, which keep in touch with the latest developments in the world, our press has not been in contact with the main overseas experiences, for a variety of reasons, such as Cuba's somewhat isolated position in Latin America and the fact that our main partners have been socialist countries that had no developed journalism to show us, quite the contrary. All of this has contributed to our journalism's technical and professional backwardness.

The training of newsmen is included in this too. We have lagged quite far behind in the programs, techniques, and profiles of those who train for this career. This is undergoing sweeping review now. One of our tasks today is to get in touch with top-notch journalistic techniques no matter where they are to be found. I especially think that we need an overhaul of our language; to me this is the key. I interpret an overhaul of language as restoring communication. Affectedness in journalism has led to a break in communication, an alienation between the press and the people.

Today I see, hear, and read comrades who are incapable of giving up the old way of saying things. At the same time, to my great enthusiasm I'm discovering a very vital and fresh language among those who are now coming in. They have an altogether new and uninhibited way of writing and saying things. This is not a put-on youth language, something phony; it's a natural mode of expression. Some progress is being made here.

What is also needed, though, is change in the language of radio, in the design of graphics, and in the language of television, in other words, all of the different ways that the media have to transmit their message. The problem is not one little slogan or phrase; the issue is more systemic, that is to say, instilling new meaning and substance into language. One can be very serious without lapsing into affectation, which conveys no information and is an attempt to replace specific analyses and facts with mere froth that says nothing.

[Borges Triana] Hasn't the time come for some sort of backing so that journalists also enjoy the elementary right to make mistakes?

[Garcia Luis] Look, I'll tell you what I think about that. Right now we're struggling with a fundamental contradiction. On the one hand there is the conviction that we need change in the press, and on the other there are the limitations that the current situation imposes. The former encourages us to move forward with the changes, and the latter reins us in because doing more and going farther depends not just on the ability and determination of journalists and press cadres but also on our ability to come up with answers to the country's real problems.

By this I mean that to the extent that we resolve the main difficulties facing the country in terms of development, foodstuffs, housing...to that same extent we will make more and more room for ourselves so that the press can go further and further. The press cannot sit around passively waiting for development; rather, it must struggle and take part in the battle to achieve this goal. There is a dialectic relationship here.

You see, the tensions that the country is experiencing—much more so now, under the conditions of the special period—are such that we must inevitably demand greater accuracy and responsibility of journalists than ever, because any issue that is touched on could become especially sensitive given the burden of difficulties that exists. Although I understand what you're saying and I identify on a gut level with the idea of demanding a margin of error, now is not the time to emphasize this; rather, this is the time to demand more responsibility and accuracy of journalists. This is not clipping their wings; the fact is that we are all obligated to do our utmost not to make mistakes, not to do anything that will backfire on our own interests.

I want to mention an idea to you that I think is the key. We defend the approach of openness in the press. Correct! Now then, openness in socialism without an answer to real problems backfires on the system itself, on the Revolution. The main thing is always solutions to actual problems. The press is not an end in itself; it is a

tool for all of society, and if the tool is not used in step with overall changes and changes in the society's situation, it could turn against social interests. Such is the experience of Eastern Europe.

Therefore, our philosophy calls for not ever separating the objectives of transforming the press from the overall tasks facing the country as part of its rectification and seeing to it that the mass media at all times act in accordance with priorities, where Cuba's future for the next 10, 15, 20 years is really being decided. The press is not the center of the world, and if we believe that the key to solving the nation's difficulties is journalism, then we're lapsing into absolutism that could lead us astray.

[Borges Triana] Pardon me for interrupting, but what you're telling me now contradicts what you told me at the start of the interview when you said that the process of rectification is fragile without an opening in the press.

[Garcia Luis] And I'll say it to you again, but at the same time this should not cause us to lose sight of what the country's real priorities are and where the fundamental battle is for survival today and development tomorrow.

For this very reason we need change in the press now more than ever. Remember that at our congress in 1986 we said that the blockade, the siege, and isolation had been the causes of the mystery syndrome. And when has there been more of a siege, blockade, and isolation than right now? What has changed is the context in which this is happening, and we need continuing change in the press because we're in this situation.

[Borges Triana] Well, to use a metaphor, a journalist would have to walk a very narrow tightrope.

[Garcia Luis] He would have to walk a very taut and narrow tightrope high off the ground and with no net underneath, with an even longer pole so as not to lose his balance, and he would have to be prepared to keep moving forward without stepping back even though there are more dangers and risks.

[Borges Triana] Well then, lastly and to paraphrase the title of a movie, is it easy to be a journalist?

[Garcia Luis] No, no! It's never been easy, now less than ever. The people who today have the turn of mind to become journalists have an incentive. I won't deny to you that some comrades are discouraged and skeptical. There are always defeatists and pessimists. We must not hush up the fact that some are disillusioned and view these problems with bitterness. Nevertheless, we also have a core of persevering comrades who are prepared to remain in these posts and to keep on slaving away because they realize, like us, that there is no alternative. Either we slave away and move forward, while learning and affirming the new, or we move backwards and sink. We have no other option.

TV Official Comments on TV Marti Jamming

PY1711154290 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 10 Nov 90 pp 16, 17

[Interview with Jose Antonio Jimenez, Institute of Radio and Television foreign relations secretary, by Diana Serafini in Montevideo in August]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Serafini] "TV Marti" was broadcasting from Miami to Havana without any previous agreement. What happened?

[Jimenez] "TV Marti" is a senseless American project against Cuba. It is the expression of an imperialist policy against an underdeveloped country like ours. That transmitter was designed to broadcast programs to Cuba and specifically to Havana, but it is the only television channel that is not seen because its signal has been jammed.

There is no TV signal jamming equipment available in the world because no one transmits a signal without a previous agreement. Resistance to imperialistic pressures, however, has forced the Cuban experts to develop jamming equipment.

"TV Marti" violates an important concept, that of national sovereignty. On this subject, our approach has nothing to do with the contents (in Cuba we watch many U.S. films and we even have a CNN program, ect.) but with the fact that a country cannot assume that it has the right to violate another country's sovereignty. This could happen to any other country in the region. As a matter of fact, with their current technology, the Americans control media, telecommunications, and information technology. They have completely mastered this field, imposing their message. If you go to a Latin American country you will see that their television programs are basically "canned" TV programs that are not in keeping with the country's cultural objectives.

[Serafini] In light of this situation, how can the audiovisual medium be used to strengthen our countries' cultural identities?

[Jimenez] First, local production must be defended (70 percent of the programs in Cuba are produced nationally and 30 percent are foreign; that is, from Europe, the United States, and Asia). In Latin America you can see that, except for the newscasts, all programs are Japanese or American cartoons. Suddenly you realize that you are forming a citizen who knows Batman or Superman better than the forefathers of independence. The media's role as a merchant has to do with a policy of domain, with a new form of colonialism that tries to prevent people from becoming aware of the need for social change and that each country has its own identity beside a common Latin American identity. Latin American reality in the media is restricted to the dramatic conflicts observed in soap operas or sensationalist news, and not in important educational works. [passage omitted]

*** Bus Transportation Problems Detailed**

91P40040A

[Editorial Report] An article in the 27 October 1990 issue of the Havana Spanish-language newspaper TRABAJADORES, entitled "It's Worth the Trouble To Walk a Little Further," reports on page 12 that the Urban Bus Enterprise of Havana City has decided to reduce the number of bus stops. The article explains that the measure was taken because it will no longer be possible to replace periodically the 2,200 buses in the system, and it was necessary to find a way to either maintain, with less fuel, the 23,000 daily trips currently made or, with the same amount of fuel, increase the number of trips. According to the article, the stops to be eliminated include those where few passengers are picked up and those stops that are less than the standard 450 meters apart. With fewer stops, the article concludes, fuel will be saved and there will be less wear and tear on brakes and other parts.

*** Commentary Warns Against Counterrevolutionaries**

91CA0013A Havana TRABAJADORES in Spanish 6 Oct 90 p 2

[Article by Renato Recio]

[Text] When the revolution began, the behavior pattern of most "worms" was quite simple: they were fanatically counterrevolutionary.

So, a worm back then was transparent. Whether he talked or not, you could tell just by his gestures and physical reactions that he was a worm.

He choked on the word "comrade." An olive drab uniform made him break into a cold sweat. Running into a black employee at a bank pushed his blood pressure up. A woman standing guard made him blush. The mere mention of the word "communism" prompted a worm automatically to cross himself.

This type of worm has been disappearing, mainly owing to the passage of time. Significant numbers of them are to be seen only on the Miami reservation.

There is a new version of the worm, however, a brand new version, we could say, because he has found his life-giving "humus," his breeding ground in the apparent recent demise of socialism and in the capitalist revelry.

Let me add that in saying "apparent" I am not trying to hide anything. I am merely looking at events in a historical perspective, and when developments are viewed thus, I do not think that there is any reason to intone a hasty requiem for socialism and to sing the praises of capitalism.

The present time is undoubtedly a difficult one, however, and not just on the surface. To say it straight out: We are at the moment of truth. A moment when character, will, soundness of thinking, and moral rectitude are put to the test. In a word, our valor and our sense of what is valuable are being put to the test.

Now that the moment of truth has arrived, the new-style worm has begun to turn yellow, and we will see through him as easily as we did his vermicular forerunner.

It is obvious that he can do the most damage in his present yellow, chameleon-like form, because his language will tend to become confused with that of the revolutionary who, aware that the work is not perfect, wants to think, comment, and struggle to improve it.

The basic difference is that the new worm is looking at the ship in the midst of the storm and is no longer concerned about its course. He is looking at the waves rising above our ship and has no confidence whatsoever (because he never did) in the solidity of its timbers. He hears, along with the threatening whistling of the wind, the siren song of capitalism, disguised this time amid the euphemistic strains of the market economy, a multiparty system, and other jewels of the current phraseology.

What does this new worm care about dignity? What does he care about the homeland? What does he care about his meager faith in the people? What does he care that he said one thing before and is saying another now?

He does not care about any of this. He portrays himself to us as a pragmatist, a realist, when actually he is easily frightened, a coward.

In such times we must learn to recognize those who have lost their morale and yet want to portray themselves to us as having the answers. They come with their anecdotes, they come with their little jokes, they come with their regrets, they come with their despair in an attempt to pierce our banners, and like bullfighters we must steer clear of them until we need to use the sword.

*** Joint Ventures Explained, Defended**

91CA0013B Havana TRABAJADORES in Spanish 13 Oct 90 p 2

[Commentary by Iliana Hautrive]

[Text] Talking about joint ventures in our economy is not taboo. Right now more than ten of them are in operation in the country, and others are being formed in a controlled, restrained manner.

In contrast to what our enemies would have those overseas believe in an attempt to sow mistrust and uncertainty among people interested in investing in Cuba, the businessmen in joint ventures are still around, engaging in their activities for the benefit of both parties.

It is important to understand that our country views joint ventures and other associations with foreign entities as the most objective international economic trend at present.

It is impossible to ignore the far-reaching changes that have taken place in the world economy as a result of the

collapse of the socialist system in the Eastern European countries, their shift to a market economy, and the trend towards privatization almost all over the world.

Indeed, we must adapt the management of our foreign trade to these changes in order to operate efficiently, without thereby renouncing our socialist model of a planned, centrally run economy.

When we analyze the situation realistically, if we have industries whose production capacity is not being utilized to the utmost, precisely because of the imperialist blockade, why don't we seek to complement them with foreign capital in order to acquire raw materials and spare parts or to make some investments, and later share the profits?

The same reasoning is valid for the presence of foreign firms in our country, some of which have been here for years and from whose efforts we have already benefited in agriculture, tourism, services, and other major branches of the economy.

It is no accident that the recent General Assembly of the Cuban Chamber of Commerce approved, at its president's request, a more direct involvement for these firms in the chamber and is proceeding accordingly.

If we look at this from another angle, it means having supply here in Cuba and not having to spend money traveling all over the world looking for what we need.

The point, then, is to continue honing our commercial techniques, in accordance with the imperatives of the moment, without giving ground on any fundamental principle that would compromise our future. To this end, the specialists in the entities that are involved in our foreign trade are already receiving training, especially the entities that are not among the Ministry of Foreign Trade enterprises, which by and large have more experience in this field.

* Wage Measures in Special Period Detailed

91CA0013C Havana TRABAJADORES in Spanish 6 Oct 90 p 3

[Report by Jose Marcos]

[Text] Francisco Linares Calvo, the minister-chairman of the State Committee for Labor and Social Security, reported at the Fourth National Plenum of the CTC [Cuban Workers Federation] on the organizational and wage-related measures that are scheduled for the special period.

Regarding those workers who may become redundant during certain stages, he explained that all excess personnel must try to place themselves in other jobs in the same enterprise, in centers of the same or a different agency, in various local jobs, and in agriculture, where workers are needed all over the country.

The agreement provides that they will receive 100 percent of their regular wage, excluding bonuses, overtime, and extra pay for exceeding goals or for an irregular schedule. Those who hold more highly paid jobs will collect accordingly.

Also, if the worker wants to find another job but cannot do so at the moment for health or other reasons or because none are available, he will be paid 100 percent of his wage the first month and 60 percent thereafter until he finds work.

An able-bodied worker who does not agree to take another job will be paid 100 percent of his wage the first month and then receive no guaranteed wage. He would, however, maintain ties with his work center, which he would rejoin when normal conditions are restored.

He indicated that the legislation about to be issued provides for an analysis of certain situations and variations thereof in implementing a five day work week in the organizations that require adjusted schedules because their product or service demands a full shift.

Among these he mentioned the centers that will have to extend their workday by an hour a day, those that have two shifts a day and will extend their hours into one shift and take the other off, and those that have three shifts, which they will have to adjust to the most appropriate schedule.

Nevertheless, some factories that produce necessary items and have enough raw materials but lack workers will receive fresh manpower to guarantee their continued operation, instead of cutting back shifts or having shutdowns.

Linares clarified that workers are not being given Saturdays off just so that they can have an extra day of rest; rather, this move was prompted by lower fuel supplies and the need to conserve given materials and resources.

He underscored that the retirement age is being kept at 60 for men and 55 for women.

* Railroads Replacing Truck Transport

91CA0013E Havana GRANMA in Spanish 5 Oct 90 p 8

[Report by Emilio del Barrio Menendez]

[Text] As a result of preliminary organizational and manpower-training efforts, railroads have been carrying mounting volumes of cargo, so much so that they are now hauling close to 95 percent of all goods that must travel more than 171 kilometers from source to destination.

For some time now railway workers have been engaged in comprehensive efforts, ranging from putting as much rolling stock as possible on line to implementing new transportation schedules designed to enhance the utilization of available resources.

To reach the aforementioned level, between October and December the railway will haul some 190,000 tons of

merchandise that has so far been carried by trucking enterprises from domestic-economy production centers, ports and elsewhere to their destinations.

As we know, owing to our country's geography rail is the most economical mode of transportation when medium and long distances are involved or for the movement of massive, homogeneous cargo at any distance.

International studies show that rail transport not only costs less than road transport but also provides indirect public benefits; for example, it relieves congestion on roads, lessens environmental pollution and conserves nonrenewable fuels.

According to reports from Transportation Ministry officials, in order to haul cargo more than 172 kilometers on the ministry's trucks specific authorization from the minister is required, and he grants it only in strongly justified cases on the basis of how important the cargo is to the country's economy.

* Numbers of Students in Farming Activities Given

91CA0013D Havana GRANMA in Spanish 5 Oct 90 p 2

[Report by Dulce M. Hernandez]

[Text] Vacation-time agricultural labor has been a decisive force in support of farm production. Through their organizations students have reaffirmed their willingness to do what is demanded of them in agriculture at this historic moment.

We have certainly seen mounting efforts to increase the participation of students at various levels of education, in comparison to last year.

During the '89-'90 academic year 304,434 basic secondary-school, urban pre-university-school, and polytechnic-school students took part in the Vacation-time Agricultural Work Plan, working on various crops, in vegetable, coffee, and tobacco programs, among others. This time, more than 31,000 basic secondary-school students from Havana, Las Tunas, Granma, and Santiago did not take part owing to a lack of work or capacity at the camps. This situation poses a challenge to the Agriculture Ministry.

For various other reasons, including medical certificates, almost 6,400 students from all of the country's pre-university schools, those in Havana especially, failed to participate.

As for technical and professional education, more than 30,000 students at schools of economics and management and industrial schools joined in, while students at agricultural polytechnic schools (55 with an enrollment of more than 33,000) took permanent advantage of the work-study program as part of their practical course of studies and as their contribution to the economy.

As Education Ministry officials told GRANMA, organizational arrangements are being made so that students at the country's polytechnic institutes can volunteer for work in agriculture as the sector's needs so require.

Students at agricultural centers, the Education Ministry adds, are ready to begin working in other regions, even though as part of their practical work and because farms, ranches, and other activities are permanently assigned to them, they spend more than half of their scheduled time on training tasks in various farm activities.

They will be joined by the enthusiastic youngsters involved in the sugar cane harvest. During the previous harvest they guaranteed the cutting and mechanized hauling of more than 14 million arrobas [1 arroba=25 pounds] of sugar cane. They intend to do even better the next harvest.

If we take the potential at technical and professional schools into account, we can assert that more than 80,000 students could well be involved in agricultural work this academic year. We are assuming here that all of the country's economic institutes have to join and that many of the students at industrial schools can do so without failing to meet their production commitments in construction (on the job) and in industry, inasmuch as plans for spare parts and import-substitution components and, now, bicycle-assembly are depending on them.

At the moment dozens of girls and boys at construction-industry polytechnic schools are supporting social projects and projects at the Villa Panamericana.

UN Representative Claims Diplomats Harassed

FL2011134990 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Cuba will respond calmly to harassment of its representatives at the United Nations, while firmly defending its rights and its dignity, Cuban representative Juana Silvera has said. Addressing a session of the Sixth Commission, which deals with relations between the United Nations and the host country, Silvera said that acts of hostility are frequently carried out in front of the Cuban mission to the United Nations in New York.

The Cuban diplomat added that there have also been incidents of verbal or physical aggression against Cuban officials that reveal a provocatory intent. She emphasized that responsibility for possible consequences of that situation will lie with the provocateurs, if the authorities of the host country, the United States, fails to take effective measures.

UJC Delegation To Visit USSR, PRC, SRV

FL2011130490 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] A delegation of the Union of Young Communists [UJC] headed by Roberto Robaina, alternate member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba and first secretary of the UJC, left for Asia last night. The PRC

and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam are the countries to be visited by the six members of the young group, which includes representatives of the various UJC leadership levels.

Shortly before leaving, Robaina told the press that group will meet with youth leaders and Cuban students in the USSR. In the PRC, they will exchange views with youth leaders, hold dialogues in factories and centers of education, and tour sites of economic, political, and social interest.

Robaina said that the delegation is scheduled to return home on 5 December. He said their tour will end with the realization of a longstanding dream: the presence of a youth delegation in Vietnam and direct contact with the people of Ho Chi Minh.

Vilma Espin Addresses Varadero ECLA Meeting

FL2011142490 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] The presence of women in the development of Latin American countries has been broadly discussed in a meeting held in Cuba by female representatives of ECLA [Economic Commission for Latin America]

The board of directors is made up of Guatemala, Venezuela, Argentina, Netherlands Antilles, and Cuba. It is chaired by Raquel Blandon de Cerezo, first lady of the Republic of Guatemala. Vilma Espin, president of the Federation of Cuban Women, welcomed the participants to the meeting.

[Begin Espin recording] We are highly pleased today, to encounter faces that we already consider to be those of friends, because we have shared work, trouble, and dreams in this arduous effort to promote the complex process of integrating the women of Latin America and the Caribbean into the economic, political, and social development of their peoples. [end recording]

In her speech, Espin, who is also a member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba, noted that Cuba was the venue of the first regional conference three years ago, and that despite serious efforts by the ECLA Secretariat, in that time there has been no tangible improvement of women's condition, but rather a spiraling deterioration of their status, as a result of the economic situation prevailing in the region.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Mrs. Raquel, what do you most hope for from this meeting?

[Raquel Blandon de Cerezo] This is a working meeting of the board of directors of the Conference for the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America. It is a working meeting in which the main task will be to approve the agenda of the fifth regional conference that we will hold in Curacao, Netherlands Antilles, in September of next year. [end recording]

The 11th Board of Directors of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Development of Latin America and the Caribbean will be in session until tomorrow in the Gaviota Hotel of Varadero.

Venezuelan Congressional Delegation Opens Visit

FL2111014590 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] Invited by the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP], a delegation from the Venezuelan Congress is in Cuba. In the afternoon [words indistinct] the Venezuelan delegation met with ANPP President Juan Escalona Reguera. Visiting us on this occasion are Mr (Cristobal Fernandez), president of the Senate's health commission; and (Jose Apadilla), president of the health commission of the Venezuelan Congress's Chamber of Deputies.

The Venezuelan congressmen have the goal of forging closer bilateral ties in the field of health and finding out in person about our situation in this area. Their tours so far of various facilities—including family doctors' offices, senior citizens' centers, hospitals, and research centers such as the Immunoassay Center and the Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology Institute—have contributed to this.

After a detailed explanation of our health care system by the ANPP president, the Venezuelan congressmen expressed their interest in the major programs the revolution has undertaken in this field [words indistinct] field of research and the family doctor plan.

Guyanese Prime Minister Arrives on Private Visit

FL2011205590 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800GMT 20Nov90

[Text] Hamilton Green, prime minister of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, arrived in Havana on a private visit today.

I am at home, how is Fidel?, the Guyanese prime minister asked enthusiastically as he strongly embraced Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Politburo and vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers. Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca and Foreign Vice Minister Manuel Sanchez Parodi also greeted the distinguished visitor at the Jose Marti Airport.

Hamilton Green visited Cuba in 1989. At that time he ratified the nonaligned nature of the Guyanese foreign policy and noted the need for South-South cooperation. Cuba and Guyana established diplomatic relations in 1975 when a fruitful cooperation in various areas, especially in the health field, began.

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

Tourist Industry Faces Challenging Times

FL2011210090 Bridgetown CANA in English 1703 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Nov. 20, CANA—The vital Caribbean tourist industry faces a challenging period ahead in the face of an economic slowdown in the major tourist generating markets and the spinoff from the Gulf crisis, the Barbados-based Caribbean Tourism Organisation (CTO) said.

Reviewing the multimillion-dollar industry up to September, the CTO quarterly publication, STATISTICAL NEWS, reported a mixed performance among the 22 countries submitting data, with 15 recording increases in stayover visitors, and seven posting declines.

With respect to the cruise ship segment of the industry, CTO cited an improved performance over last year's 5.8 percent growth, reflecting projections by the Cruise Line International Association of an overall 11 percent growth in business this year. The size of the increase was not given.

However, CTO said the prospects of Caribbean tourism were dimmed by a gloomy world economic picture which was expected to be aggravated by the hike in oil prices stemming from the Gulf crisis.

"The region's tourism sector (and Caribbean economies in general) will have a series of problems to contend with," STATISTICAL NEWS said. "Chief among these are: higher travel costs resulting from increased oil prices; rises in the cost of imported inputs due to higher production and transport costs; and higher energy costs for regional producers and hoteliers."

"And, the sector's performance is closely tied to economic conditions in the marketplace," the review added. CTO also noted that oil price hikes had coincided with the two previous occasions when annual tourist arrivals to the region declined.

STATISTICAL NEWS reported increases in arrivals of 20 percent and over for Jamaica, Cayman Islands, and Aruba. Jamaica's figure was up to September while for the other, it was up to August. Double-digit increases were also reported by Anguilla, Trinidad and Tobago, Grenada, St. Maarten, and Bermuda. Single-digit increases were recorded by St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Lucia, Curacao, Bonaire, Antigua and Barbuda, and the Bahamas. Barbados, Martinique, British Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and Turks and Caicos Islands reported decreases.

The United States, Canada, and Europe were the major markets.

Barbados

Sandiford Denies Currency Devaluation Rumors

FL2011205090 Bridgetown CANA in English 2014 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Nov. 20, CANA—Prime Minister Erskine Sandiford on Monday night denied knowledge of an International Monetary Fund (IMF) recommendation calling for a devaluation of the Barbados dollar from the current two-to-one U.S. dollar exchange rate, to 4.25 Bds dollars to the greenback.

Opposition Barbados Labour Party (BLP) leader, Henry Forde, told a public meeting on Sunday night that the proposal was put forward by an IMF mission which visited the island earlier this year to conduct a review of the performance of the Barbados economy.

"I know of no such recommendation," Sandiford said in a statement issued through the Government Information Service (GIS). "If Mr. Forde has a document with such a recommendation, he should make the relevant extracts public immediately, so that the status and validity of the alleged recommendation may be established."

Speculation of a currency devaluation has occasionally surfaced here since the mid-1980's following similar moves by Barbados' main trading partners in the Caribbean Community (Caricom) and in the face of evidence that Barbados has been losing its international competitiveness. The government, however, has repeatedly denied it was contemplating devaluation as a policy measure. The Barbados dollar has been fixed at the exchange rate of two-to-one U.S. since the mid-1970's.

"Because the current exchange rate is so very important as an anchor for government policy of maintaining employment, increasing input, controlling inflation, and stabilising the balance of payments, idle speculation would only serve to trigger unfortunate economic and social consequences," said Sandiford, with respect to the latest allegation.

Besides being prime minister, Sandiford has responsibility for finance and the economy.

"My government, which is the only authority that can decide on the exchange rate of the Barbados dollar, has no plans for any devaulation," Sandiford added. "This is consistent with the policy position which this government has enunciated over the last four years."

Sandiford said the Barbados dollar was closest to a devaluation in 1985 when the BLP was in office.

Quoting from what appeared to be an IMF document, Sandiford said the Washington-based agency had observed then that "the corrective measures being implemented by the government need to be complemented by a change in the exchange rate of the Barbados dollar in order to increase competitiveness."

Dominican Republic

Reports Provide Varying Accounts of Strike

Secretary Declares Country 'Calm'

FL2011193190 Santo Domingo Radio-Television Dominicana Radio Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Dr. Attilio Guzman Fernandez, secretary of interior and police, has asserted that the country is calm in spite of the strike called by some popular sectors. He explained that the strike that began yesterday is in effect partially because all government offices have operated without any problems. He stated that he contacted most provincial governors and was informed that work in the towns of the interior is going on normally. Dr. Attilio Guzman Fernandez said activities have not been affected during the first day of the strike in towns such as Puerto Plata, Santiago, La Romana, and El Ceibo.

Commentary Terms Strike 'Failure'

FL2011204590 Santo Domingo Radio-Television Dominicana Radio Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 20 Nov 90

["Today's Subject" program: "The Strike's Failure or Success"]

[Text] The debate in the media and public opinion is whether the strike has been a success or a failure. We can assert with all certainty and without prejudice that the strike has been a failure. Moreover, what can be characterized as a success is precisely what is shown by the huge failure of its promoters and organizers.

All government offices, private banks, tourist service offices, hotels, time sharing hotels, and motels, a large number of grocery stores, and most of the industrial installations, operated normally. This is a reality that nobody can dispute.

The public transportation service and the movement of private vehicles, transportation of goods, and all service stations, operated and will continue to operate normally.

Farmers, breeding farms, and agricultural industries are working without interruption. The vast majority of public work project workers have continued with their construction work. The majority of the duty- free zones are operating and there is even greater activity there. Newspapers and radio and television stations have not suffered the least change in the operation of their programming. Private and public clinics and hospitals and medical, attorney, and engineer offices are operating normally. The vast majority of drug stores are open.

City traffic is busy, within the context of the abnormal situation created by the strike. Numerous vehicle repair garages are working. Electric and water services are being provided with great efficiency. Port and airport activities have developed with complete normalcy.

So, where is the strike? To what degree has the strike taken place? Simply, a great number of grocery stores and department stores, subjected to the terror of the vandals, of those who threaten with looting and acts of violence, have closed their doors, especially in areas of greater population density and where most of the hard-core and desperate people from the marginal and middle-income neighborhoods live. The number of cabs and motorcycle cabs were partially reduced, precisely, because of the same reasons.

Political parties and extremely small, radical left-wing groups have continued with their ferocious propaganda and intimidating practices. Because of those intimidations, many families, private and even public employees were reluctant to leave their homes because they feared being hit by a rock or any other type of violence. In the meantime, the military and police patrols were very discreet, restrained, and patient.

People playing dominos and other games were seen on the sidewalk and thousands of children and adolescents gathered to play baseball and other sports in the relatively empty streets.

The strike has had a third of the expected turnout and that third responds to the atmosphere of tension that has prevailed for a week.

The conclusion is as follows: The strike has obviously failed because what is happening does not constitute and will not constitute anything but an intimidating action to alter the country's normal activities. The strike, however, has not been able to—as similar such actions in the past have—paralyze the productive activities or the country's public services.

In sum, the days of the strike pass without greater disruption to the national life, and the paths of the agreement the government has outlined will be opened so that the Dominicans can overcome through work and concerted effort the national effort we need to carry out to strengthen peace, dignity, progress, and freedom of all Dominicans. It is as simple as that.

Broadcast Emphasizes Disruptions

FL2011150790 Santo Domingo Cadena de Noticias in Spanish 0930 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Today is the second day of the general strike called by several labor and neighborhood organizations to demand that President Joaquin Balaguer and his Cabinet leave their posts. On the first day, the general strike left a toll of several wounded and very few people arrested as compared with other such protests.

In the capital and other cities, there was reportedly almost total support for the strike. There were no bomb explosions, however, as had occurred in recent past. One military officer was shot in the arm during a confrontation between demonstrators and police and military troops in Cotui. In Santo Domingo, a Pentecostal minister was shot by a soldier who fired deliberately as the

minister was returning on his tricycle from a retreat to his home in Ensanche Capotillo. It is believed that very few people have been arrested by the police and the military in the framework of the call for a strike throughout the country, because there have been few demonstrations or outbreaks of violence.

Vehicular traffic was practically nonexistent in Santo Domingo and other cities. There were also very few wholesale or retail businesses open.

PRD Leader Approves Early Elections Proposal

FL2011160390 Santo Domingo Cadena de Noticias in Spanish 0930 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] The president of the PRD [Dominican Revolutionary Party] has said that his political organization is willing to participate in elections in 1992. Dr. Jose Francisco Pena Gomez explained, however, that the PRD has not called for the presidential term of office to be shortened, nor has his party demanded President Joaquin Balaguer's resignation.

Pena Gomez said that although the PRD has not proposed early elections or President Balaguer's resignation, it is willing to participate in elections in 1992 as the president has proposed.

[Begin Pena Gomez recording, in progress] ...agreed that our party would be willing to participate in elections in 1994, or in 1992, but it reaffirmed that we have not requested either Dr. Joaquin Balaguer's resignation or a shortening of his term.

Our positions were clearly explained in several documents. They call for an end to the economic and food shortages, approval of reforms such as the liberalization of the state and the economy, and respect for labor union freedom. Those are the PRD's demands. It has not called for President Balaguer's resignation.

In this regard, we feel that the president of the republic offered a positive partial response to our unceasing call for amendment of the constitution and the electoral law. He remained indifferent, however, to the economic and social demands of the working class. [end recording]

Leftists Issue Call for Coalition Government

FL2011184090 Santo Domingo Cadena de Noticias in Spanish 0930 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Nine leftist organizations have called for the resignation of President Joaquin Balaguer and the formation of a coalition government. (Juan Chalas), spokesman for the organizations said that the Dominican people have realized the need for a change in the country's economic policy. He added that the coalition government that he proposes would be made up of different national forces.

The organizations that are calling for the formation of a new government are the Communist Party, the Party of the Dominican Working People, the United Left and Popular Liberation Movements, the Revolutionary Organization of the People and the Socialist Organization of the Workers, the Resistance and Popular Liberation Forces, the [word indistinct] Democratic Front, and the Patriotic Union.

(Chalas) said that the government that the leftists are proposing would have as its objective application of a new and different economic policy.

[Begin (Chalas) recording] In this regard, we have noted the need to form a provisional democratic government with a coalition executive branch made up of representative leaders from the various sectors, including an industrialist, a businessman, a woman, a military officer, several representatives of the popular labor and peasant movements, a delegate from the progressive church, and a prominent professional.

In our opinion, that government should promise to implement the proposals made by the popular and labor movement, as well as a program that is an alternative to the neoliberal, pro-IMF policy, and to the impositions that are typical of the criminal policy implemented by Balaguer. [end recording]

Haiti

Article Views CEP Pre-Election Data

FL2011191590 Port-au-Prince LE NOUVELLISTE in French No. 22.938 17-18 Nov 90 pp 1, 12

[Article by Anaise Chavenet: "The Political Parties on the Carpet" subtitled "Analysis of the Figures Published by the CEP"]

[Excerpts] Eleven presidential candidates, 119 senatorial candidates, and 338 parliamentary candidates are soliciting the votes of 3.271.155 electors registered throughout the country, according to the statistics the Provisional Electoral Council [CEP] published this week.

The number of Haitian citizens registered to vote is much higher than the most optimistic expectations. The electoral weight of the West Department is unquestionable: more than 34 percent of all registered voters. The Artibonite Department (14.71 percent) is second, and the North Department (10.97 percent) is third. [passage omitted]

Analysis of the two lists of candidacies accepted by the CEP shows that, unlike the profile of previous elections, almost all candidates presented themselves under the banner of a political party, an alliance, or an electoral grouping. Only one independent presidential candidate was accepted by the CEP (Fritz Simon, a "dissident" of the Bel-Air branch of Movement for Organization of the Country). [passage omitted]

There is only one independent legislative candidate out of 119 running for the Senate (Guy Beauduy for the Southeast), and nine out of 338 parliamentary candidates. This represents 0.84 percent, and 2.66 percent

respectively. Of 15 parties that presented candidates to the legislature, National Alliance for Democracy and Progress [ANDP] is on top of the list, with 92 candidates accepted for 110 seats (27 senators and 83 deputies). ANDP is followed from a distance by the Haitian Christian Democratic Party (60 candidates), the National Party of Labor (55 candidates), with the National Front for Change and Democracy and Assembly of Progressive National Democrats equally placed with 50 candidates. [passage omitted]

The party that has suffered the most because of the process of validation of candidacies is Union for National Reconciliation, with 25 candidates disqualified: Dr. Roger Lafontant as presidential candidate, 6 senatorial candidates, and 18 parliamentary candidates. [passage omitted]

We can note that among 83 districts there is one in which nobody is running for the parliament. It is Petit Trou de Nippes [located] in the Grand'Anse Department. [passage omitted]

Human Rights Commission Optimistic on Elections

FL2011202090 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] The Inter-American Commission for Human Rights [IACHR] visited Haiti from 14 to 16 November. At the conclusion of its visit, the delegation published a press communique that noted election progress, especially in the area of political rights. The delegation met with personalities from all interested factions and found encouraging signs of the current electoral process ending in an authentic ballot.

The number of registered people—more than three million—was interpreted by the commission as a demonstration of the deep desire of the Haitian people to achieve democratic change. The commission noted that the Provisional Electoral Council [CEP] is performing its functions independently, without bias, and with strict respect for the Constitution and the law. The commission expressed the hope that the CEP is equipped with sufficient resources to complete its important work.

In the matter of election security, the head of the Haitian Armed Forces reiterated to the IACHR that his commitment will remain in full force to see fair balloting carried through to the end.

It is the opinion of the commission that the presence of international observers, including those from the Organization of American States, will contribute to the credibility of the electoral process in assuring that it will faithfully reflect the wishes of the people.

In its final report, the commission pointed out that in spite of the favorable elements mentioned above, there are still worrisome factors to be dealt with. It has been informed, for example, that certain members of the media openly voice threats against the CEP and its members. It was also stressed to the IACHR that no substantial progress has been recorded in the investigations intended to identify and punish those who have committed election-related crimes.

The commission reminds the government of its obligation to put an immediate halt to the nascent violence which has begun to appear as the elections draw near, and it urges all sectors to discontinue the violence. It also listened to threats of catastrophic consequences to any interference in the electoral process. It likewise received depositions alleging that some CEP interpretations seem to be rigid and literal, and that they reportedly affect the rights recognized by the American Convention in relation to human rights.

The IACHR pointed out in its final press release that it had received reports of political leaders intervening for favored candidates and using their power to put pressure on their constituents.

In general, however, the IACHR was very encouraged by the information it gathered during its visit, in spite of the uncertainty noted in sectors fearful of a repetition of the failed elections of November 1987.

Disqualified Candidates Protest CEP Decision

FL2011173090 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Francisque Jean, disqualified as presidential candidate during the third round of rejections by the Provisional Electoral Council [CEP], follows the lead of his previously disqualified colleagues. In the wake of his eviction, Francisque Jean has announced his intention to take his case to the Court of Appeal. He is less concerned about the court verdict, however, than he is with the dissolution of the CEP. "These guys and their associates must move out," he commented. This was strong and threatening language from the former candidate of the Militant Revolutionary Forces [FMR], characteristic of a former military man who holds Adolph Hitler as his favorite political model. In applying for presidential candidacy, Francisque Jean was aiming not at becoming president, knowing beforehand that he lacked the necessary funds to reach that position, but rather, he explains, to overthrow the CEP.

[Begin recording] [Jean] It was with the intention of overthrowing them [CEP] that I ran as presidential candidate, to make myself a victim in order to expose the CEP's illegality, and to force them to disband. If one investigates, it will be noted that in Port-de-Paix, they stole $7,000. They did the same in two other departments. It is not a situation that should be tolerated.

[Reporter] As I understand it, you had a plan to run as presidential candidate in order to denounce the unconstitutionality of the electoral law.

[Jean] That is correct. I did not even pay the subscription fee. [passage omitted] We are going to the Court of Appeal in order to complain that the Electoral Council is illegal and unconstitutional. We are also waiting for decisions of the Court on the cases of Manigat and

Lafontant before we call on the population to overthrow the CEP and send them home. If it is proven that they stole money, we will arrest them. [end recording]

While waiting for his case, as well as others, to go through the Court of Appeal, Francisque Jean expresses his intention to use any means to reach his goal. He is clearly threatening the Electoral Council as well as the future government: "If our appeal is rejected by the Court, we will rebel against the elected government because the government will be unconstitutional," he says. [passage omitted]

Another presidential candidate, Dumas J. Arnold, also challenges the CEP's decision. It was while campaigning in Gonaives that he learned about the CEP's measure to keep him from running. Dumas J. Arnold returned to Port-au-Prince as a regular citizen. Arnold's position, as president of the National Party for Defense of the Workers, is that, after all the work and expense of campaigning, candidates owe nothing to the CEP.

"After statements on the radio, official meetings with the CEP, the Army, and international institutions, after all this work, I owe nothing to the Council," Arnold declares. "Anyway, how can they ask $20,000 of a candidate who pays only $20 to a radio station to introduce himself to a community."

[Begin recording] [Arnold] You cannot tell me that I am rejected after evaluating my file. These guys even helped us meet with the UN representatives. We were accepted as legal candidates. I met with UN representatives this morning to tell them that I do not understand what is happening. In addition to that, we had the chief of police giving us security. I am still a presidential candidate and I am asking the CEP to reconsider its decision.

[Reporter] Are you ready to pay the $20,000 dollars required by the CEP?

[Dumas] We do not have $20,000 dollars to give to the CEP because, as I mentioned already, the CEP changed the law. After someone has done so much work, how can they come and ask a candidate to pay. [end recording]

The pastor has then worked in vain. The number of unhappy candidates is now up to 15 since Wednesday. The complaint files are increasing at the courthouse, which must present its verdicts by the end of next week.

Attackers Stone Delmas MOP Headquarters

FL2011180090 Port-au-Prince LE NOUVELLISTE in French No. 22.938 17-18 Nov 90 p 1

[From "The Stirs of Current News" column: "The Delmas MOP Attacked"]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Three people hurled stones at the headquarters of the Delmas branch of the Movement for the Organization of the Country [MOP] [located] in Delmas on Friday 16 November 1990 around 7:30 PM while the MOP members were meeting. The attackers broke windshields of the cars parked on the office grounds.

The secretary general of the MOP, Gerard Philippe Auguste, alerted the police, who did not take long to arrive on the spot, but the police were only able to take note of the damages [as the attackers had already fled].

Trinidad and Tobago

Trade Unions Reject Government's Wage Offer

FL2011224590 Bridgetown CANA in English 2141 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Nov 20, CANA—Trade unions in Trinidad and Tobago have rejected government's offer to restore half of the ten per cent in pay it cut three years ago. The unions are demanding that government restore the full ten percent to public servants' salaries and a suspended cost of living allowance (COLA). They also want a two percent increase in COLA awarded by the industrial court in 1987. In the face of economic problems, government in 1987 suspended COLA payments to public servants and the following year decreased salaries by ten percent.

The public services association (PSA), which represents more than 35,000 monthly-paid government employees, refused the government's offer, terming it "unfair." The Trinidad and Tobago Unified Teachers Association (TTUTA) representing more than 8,000 teachers is also demanding full restoration of salaries and payments of COLA. "The unions rejected the offer outright and indicated quite clearly to the minister that they wanted full restoration of salaries from the beginning of next year," said a PSA spokesman. "The government suggested also that the question of the retroactive payments could be handled by some bond issue.

"This is just a concept they offered and which has not been developed by government, so we were not clear on what they were talking about."

The government said it could only afford to give back five percent "within the financial constraints of the government," a statement from the prime minister's Information Division said. The PSA spokesman said government could offer the full ten percent to public servants since the economy was looking "better" with the increase in oil prices. Trinidad and Tobago produces oil. He said government's five percent was based on the average price of 22 US dollars per barrel of oil for 1991.

The Teachers Association's general secretary, Frank Ramnanan, said teachers need every cent of what is owed to them by government. "The economy is looking good, oil prices are still going up, the teachers have sacrificed and now it's time for them to be rewarded," he said.

"The teachers are backing us on this issue and we feel if teachers are satisfied, they can work better to teach the children," he told CANA.

Critical Current Split Produces New Party

PA2011202990 Mexico City Red Nacional i3 Imevision Television in Spanish 1300 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] Effective yesterday, the Critical Current [CC] of the Institutional Revolutionary Party [PRI] split. A large group of its activists decided to create a new organization called Democracy 2000, which will be affiliated with the PRI. At the same time, at the conclusion of the meeting CC leader Rodolfo Gonzalez Guevara announced the creation of a new political party with centrist tendencies.

In what was described as a redefinition, a negotiated division, or even a dignified goodbye to Rodolfo Gonzalez Guevara, a majority of the movement members decided to separate themselves from the group and create a new organization, Democracy 2000, that will work within the PRI. The new organization will be provisionally ruled by a national coordinating board led by Luis Priego Ortiz.

Rodolfo Gonzalez Guevara announced the split of the CC at the conclusion of its third national meeting; he said it was necessary because those who resigned from the PRI and those who stayed were getting in each other's way. He also stated his decision to create a new national politically centrist party, to seek alliances with the PAN [National Action Party] and the PRD [Party of the Democratic revolution], and to consult with all those who, he said, hope for democracy.

The request to register the yet unnamed party will be filed during the first half of December. Meanwhile, the CC—which has not disappeared—became a civic organization.

Democratic Revolution Party Elects Cardenas

PA2011194690 Mexico City XHTV Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Cuauhtemoc Cardenas Solorzano has been unanimously elected first president of the Party of the Democratic Revolution for a three-year period. Of the 1,765 national delegates registered at the plenary assembly, 1,669 gave their vote to the party's coordinator general. The plenary assembly began yesterday and ended today at 0830.

Congress Leader Sets Conditions on Common Market

PA2011183490 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0119 GMT 17 Nov 90

[Text] Nuevo Vallarta, Mexico, 16 Nov (NOTIMEX)—Guillermo Jimenez Morales, president of the Grand Commission of the Mexican Chamber of Deputies, said here today that Mexico favors forming a North American common market, but only if it can preserve its freedom and sovereignty.

Interviewed shortly before the opening of the ninth Mexican-Canadian interparliamentary meeting, Jimenez said that Mexico should sign separate free- trade treaties with Canada and the United States before forming a common market.

He said that if the free- trade agreements are signed, protective measures will be established to safeguard Mexico's freedom and self-determination.

Jimenez said that Mexico is interested in signing these agreements, however, "it is more interested in maintaining its liberty, self-determination, sovereignty, and independence."

He stressed that the Mexican Congress is very interested in learning from the Canadian deputies their experience with the free trade treaty signed with the United States two years ago. He said: "Their comments will be extremely useful to broaden our knowledge and to establish the necessary clauses."

Jimenez said that after the interparliamentary meeting, the Mexican congressmen will analyze among themselves their experiences, and will then meet with representatives of the executive branch to fix criteria for a possible agreement.

He said that the talks with the United States are "headed in the right direction. There is willingness on both sides to sign a free trade treaty and the legislative branch hopes that it will be signed soon."

He said Mexico is also studying the possibility of signing a similar agreement with Canada. He said: "Mexico is interested in opening new markets and establishing bases to increase investments and generate jobs for the local labor force."

Meeting With Canadian Legislators Concludes

PA2011194890 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 1630 GMT 18 Nov 90

[Text] At the conclusion in Bahia de Banderas, Nayarit State, of the ninth Mexico-Canada interparliamentary meeting, the two countries signed a joint communique stating that the expansion of trade and economic cooperation could be beneficial for both of them. The two parliamentary delegations held fruitful exchanges on the possibility of establishing a free trade area in North America.

The joint communique consists of 23 points and was signed by the Mexican and Canadian legislators who attended the meeting. The Canadian delegation recognized the progress experienced by the Mexican economy and pointed out that Canadian businesses are keenly interested in investing in Mexico. The Mexican and Canadian parliamentarians committed themselves to continue assessing tourism, fishing, scientific, technological, and cultural cooperation agreements.

As for the struggle against drug trafficking, the Mexican and Canadian legislators demanded that consumer countries assume co- responsibility and pointed out that such nations must erradicate this problem by implementing programs to assist addicts. Mexico and Canada rejected the creation of a continental military force to fight drug trafficking.

Costa Rica

Foreign Ministry Condemns FMLN Offensive

PA2111024890 Paris AFP in Spanish 0051 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] San Jose, 20 Nov (AFP)—The Costa Rican Government has condemned the offensive launched by the Salvadoran rebels on 20 November and urges the parties in conflict to "face, in earnest, the process of negotiations" in that Central American country.

In a communique, commenting on the "limited extent" of the offensive launched by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) to pressure the Salvadoran authorities to negotiate a solution to the conflict which has already lasted 10 years, the Costa Rican Foreign Ministry condemned the "use of violence as a means of attaining political action."

The Costa Rican Government urges the FMLN and President Alfredo Cristiani's administration to resume negotiations, currently at a standstill, and "give a satisfactory response to the clamor for peace repeatedly heard from the Salvadoran people."

According to reports issued by the rebels and the Army, the clashes have already resulted in more than 30 dead and 100 wounded.

El Salvador

FMLN Launches 'Terrorist Attacks' 19-21 Nov

Chalatenango, Quetzaltepeque Attacked

PA2011131590 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1208 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] We have a last-minute report from Chalatenango Department: Farabundo Marti National Liberation Army [FMLN] guerrillas early this morning began to attack Military Detachment posts in various parts of the capital of Chalatenango Department, mainly the post on Miguel Placido Pena Street, Las Flores neighborhood in the capital of Chalatenango Department.

Combat continues at this time, and machine-gun fire can be heard in various points of the capital city of Chalatenango Department. Police sources told us they have no knowledge so far of any casualties from this FMLN attack, which has been very violent and has been going on for over three hours.

We have another confirmed report. At 0000, FMLN guerrillas began to attack in Quetzaltepeque, located in northern San Salvador Department. According to the official reports from military sources, combat continues at this hour in various points in the downtown area and outskirts of Quetzaltepeque. It has also been confirmed that a small fire has broken out in a mattress factory, in eastern Quetzaltepeque.

The rebels are using heavy artillery, while Army units are trying to repel the guerrilla attacks. For the time being, there are no reports of casualties among civilians, but military sources have confirmed that at least five soldiers have been wounded, and two of them are in critical condition.

Vehicle traffic in the area of Quetzaltepeque, to and from San Salvador City, as well as on the road joining the Pan-American Highway with the Northern Highway is being blocked by the rebels. Other clashes broke out early this morning when Army troops entered through the western side of the highway. We warn drivers not to travel along these routes.

At least 50 explosions have been heard in the capital city of San Salvador since the rebels began their attack against a small garrison and National Police detachment in Quetzaltepeque. The Army units that were sent early this morning have entered through the eastern side of Quetzaltepeque and are fighting the FMLN rebels.

It has also been confirmed that the northern part of the capital city of San Salvador is without electricity, as a result of sabotage actions caried out by the leftist guerrillas.

Further Details on Attack

PA2011133590 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1225 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Report by Raul Beltran Bonilla]

[Text] We will now give you last-minute information on the events that have taken place in different areas of El Salvador, but especially in the country's central area. Official sources confirmed this morning that the rebels attacked the Zacatecoluca community about midnight on 19 November and that the attack ended at approximately 0230-0300 this morning. The official reports from Zacatecoluca confirm that the rebels attacked the cotton cooperative and a patrol in a place called San Simon in the eastern part of Zacatecoluca.

We repeat: Rebel groups attacked the security positions of the cotton cooperative located in the eastern outskirts of Zacatecoluca in La Paz Deparment. At the same time, the rebels clashed with a patrol near San Simon in the outskirts of this (Virolena) community.

We received reports from the hospital this morning. The reports indicated that the hospital has not treated any wounded or dead combatants from either side or any civilians as a result of the clashes in Zacatecoluca this morning. Meanwhile, the rebels have sabotaged the energy services in the eastern and central areas of the country. The latter action was part of the rebel's syncronized operation in different parts of the country. These actions started approximately at midnight 19 November.

Also, according to military sources, there was combat this morning at the Apopa neighborhood, in the outskirts, and near the neighborhood known as the Madre Tierra development.

We repeat: In Zacatecoluca and Apopa there have been clashes between rebel and Army personnel from midnight until early this morning. We do not know the number of casualties on either side or what could have been suffered by the civilian population in the three places where armed clashes have taken place. Be alert, La Poderosa listeners. We will continue to update information on events.

Fighting Continues

PA2011143090 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1249 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Report by Raul Beltran Bonilla]

[Text] This is a last minute report: At least seven towns in various areas of the nation are right now the target of an attack by Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] rebels. The most serious attack so far is taking place in Quetzaltepeque. The attack began at 0000, and the rebels have already entered the center of town. Heavy artillery explosions and shooting continues to be heard throughout various parts of the city. It is impossible to evacuate the wounded because combat is so heavy in the area.

According to official reports, the leftist guerrillas have also attacked in the areas of Madre Tierra and La Ermita in Apopa. We urge drivers traveling from the northern part of the country as well as those traveling near the intersection of the Panamerican and Northern Highways to be very cautious, as the situation is very critical.

It has also been confirmed that electricity has been cut off in Zacatecoluca. Fighting is taking place in the area of the cotton workers cooperative as well as San Simon hamlet, in eastern Zacatecoluca.

In Usulutan, heavy fighting began at 0000, when the installations of the Atonal Rapid Deployment Battalion and of the 6th Infantry Brigade were attacked with heavy artillery. There are many private homes in the area of the 6th Infantry Brigade. The Usulutan penitentiary was also attacked. It has been confirmed that six army soldiers have been wounded, and one prisoner was critically wounded. So far, combat is taking place in the outskirts of Usulutan, where soldiers from the Atonal Battalion and of the 6th Infantry Brigade have repelled the rebels' attack. The Air Force is supporting the Army with A-37 planes and helicopter gunships that are fighting in the outskirts of Usulutan, near El Molino and the northern part of the city.

In San Francisco Gotera, which is the capital of Morazan Department, Army troops continue at this hour fighting the leftist guerrillas in three areas of the city. The guerrillas tried to enter through the outskirts early this morning. There is heavy combat at this time in San Francisco Gotera, where reinforcements are supporting the Salvadoran Army to repel the FMLN attack.

There have been sabotage actions against the power pylons in Santa Marta and Santa Lucia neighborhoods, near the Air Force installations. According to a Defense Ministry source in the capital city, it is believed that these are harassment actions by the rebels who want to exert pressure on the meetings that are being held in Mexico City between the government and FMLN delegates.

Another report we have received confirms that the attack in Apopa continues, particularly in the neighborhoods on the outskirts. In addition to the areas of La Ermita and Madre Tierra, the rebels have taken over the (Chintook) neighhorhood, where at least 5,000 people live. Part of the Civil Defense installations in that area have also been taken over, according to civilian sources.

Meanwhile, the rebels have labelled this attack that has been going on for several hours in several parts of the nation as an operation to punish the Armed Forces and to force them to negotiate together with the Alfredo Cristiani government in the meeting that is being held in Mexico City.

One of the rebel commanders has contacted the media, including Radio Cadena YSKL, to give details on the operation the rebels began shortly after midnight.

While the situation remains unchanged in Quetzaltepeque, Usulutan, and San Francisco Gotera, the situation is under control in La Paz Department. There have been severe sabotage actions, however, against the primary electricity network in various points of the nation which has left at least 40 percent of the country without electricity since midnight.

Another report expands on the Chalatenango attacks, saying that so far three soldiers have been critically wounded, four soldiers slightly injured, and one sergeant killed. A 26-year old civilian is also reported wounded in El Calvario neighbhorhood in the capital of Chalatenango Department. The reports add that the offices of the International Red Cross in the city have been seriously damaged.

'Campaign of Punishment'

PA2011144790 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1338 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Report by Raul Beltran Bonilla]

[Text] We will now give you an update on the events that have taken place in several areas of our country since midnight last night. We confirm problems have also occurred in Chalatenango, 70 km to the north of San Salvador. We will give you more information on these attacks later.

Rebel spokesmen contacted several media sources in the country this morning to communicate the reasons for

their attacks in at least six of the 14 El Salvador departments, and especially in seven communities. One of the rebel spokesman talked to the YSKL news center and gave us the following report:

[Begin unidentified rebel spokesman recording] Today the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] forces have started a national campaign of punishment against the repressive Army of our country. The reason for this campaign is that we consider the Army to be the biggest obstacle to peace in El Salvador.

We think that this national campaign will serve to make the government and the Army understand that they must really respect the people's will for peace and justice. They must negotiate immediately, in a serious manner and without delay. We think that the Army is the fundamental obstacle to peace because it is against any type of organizational restructuring, which the people already know is required, any type of purge, any halt to their impunity, and anything that goes against their current privileges. We think that the Army is the biggest obstacle to the country's development as it consumes most of the national budget. It is also one of the biggest obstacles to rescuing our sovereignty since it responds more to foreign interests than to the interets of the people. We have, therefore, started this national campaign of punishment against the Army. We trust this action will enable the government to understand that they must negotiate in a serious and expeditious manner. Period. [end recording]

We verify that the FMLN General Command reported this official communique early this morning to the YSKL news center and other media centers. We repeat: The problems started at midnight. There have been very serious and strong actions in Quetzaltepeque, Usulutan, and San Francisco Botero. There have been less serious actions in Zacatecoluca, where the FMLN attacked the cotton cooperative, and in the outskirts of Chalatenango, from where we have received official confirmation that the FMLN conducted harrassment actions. Also, three northern Apopa neighorhoods have been occupied by rebel personnel, and army troops have proceeded to repel the guerrilla attack.

FMLN on 'Military Offensive'

PA2011154190 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Concerning the rebel actions that began this morning, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] today issued an official communique that says:

The FMLN officially reserves the right to launch a second military offensive in the short or medium-term if the government resists international pressure, the demands of the entire nation, as well as the pressures of the FMLN.

The FMLN insists the war will end only when the Army totally disappears. With the military campaign that began today throughout the country, the FMLN states this is the beginning of a process of converting the FMLN military forces into the National Army for Democracy [Ejercito Nacional Para La Democracia].

As for a cease-fire, the guerrillas state this will be attained once impunity ends. The military campaign is called "Punish the Armed Forces," and it includes nationwide attacks for limited purposes, according to the rebels.

In its communique, the FMLN states that the attacks have taken place due to the recent statements of the government to the effect that the issue of the Armed Forces is not negotiable.

The official communique issued this morning by the FMLN is signed by the five rebel commanders.

FMLN Claims Control of Towns

PA2011154890 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] We have contacted the town of Comalapa in the northern department of La Libertad, where at this moment the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] claims to maintain positions. An FMLN commander in the area has telephoned Radio Cadena YSU to issue the following communique:

[Begin unidentified FMLN commander recording] On 19 November at 1900, guerrilla units took control of the following townships: Comalapa, San Francisco Morazan, Dulce Nombre de Maria and outlying hamlets where FMLN banners were planted and propaganda leaflets were scattered, asking that there be a break in the impasse in the dialogue. Also, the Salvadoran people are informed that the FMLN is willing to truly negotiate as long as the government is willing to accept the topic of the demilitarization of the country. At 0300 this morning, guerrilla units took control of the city of Chalatenango, where fierce fighting ensued. Thus far we do not have any results of the fighting. [end recording]

Armed Forces Communique

PA2011155490 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1402 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Communique issued by the Armed Forces Press Committee on 20 November—read by unidentified Armed Forces spokesman]

[Text] From midnight until the early hours of today, FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Libeation Front] rebel groups launched a series of attacks on several garrisons in the country. The most significant attacks were carried out in the Departments of Usulutan, Morazan, and Chalatenango, and in Quezaltepeque and Apopa. The rebels also harassed several military units

that provide security to CEL [Lempa River Hydroelectric Executive Commissions] in Quezaltepeque and Santa Tecla, where no casualties have been reported.

A preliminary report states that three terrorists were killed and three soldiers wounded in the wake of this morning's incidents in the Department of Usulutan. Between approximately 0200 and 0300 this morning the guerrillas launched four mortar attacks against the military installations, damaging several nearby houses. The names of the houseowners have not been established. This information will be given later in detail.

In Chalatenango five soldiers were wounded when guerrillas launched several explosives this morning against the installations of Military Detachment No. 1. According to the unit commander, the situation is under control. Thus far there are no reports of casualties inflicted on the subversive groups, who were routed from the region. At this moment, a mopping up operation is underway in the environs of Chalantenango to determine the number of casualties inflicted on the FMLN rebels.

As for Morazan, Military Detachment No. 4 issued a preliminary report saying that three terrorists were killed and four wounded, while five soldiers were wounded. Another report has arrived from Morazan on harassment operations staged in San Francisco Gotera.

There were two harassment operations in the city of Apopa. One was against the National Guard, which provides security to the Acelguate Bridge, where no casualties have been reported. The other harassment operation occurred at 0330 against the Apopa Civil Defense, during which one person was killed and a civil defense member wounded.

In the capital it is reported that at 0100 this morning terrorist groups launched catapults and fired mortar against the Salvadoran Air Force installations. It was reported that two troop personnel were wounded, a barracks of the Airborne Battalion was destroyed, and an O-2 reconnaissance aircraft was damaged.

These are the terrorist activities which have been staged by the FMLN throughout last night and this morning.

The Armed Forces High Command has termed the attack a propaganda maneuver to exert pressure on the government so that it will reach agreements in this round of talks. On many occasions, however, the Armed Forces High Command has confirmed that it is willing to continue supporting the dialogue process so that specific agreements may be reached to attain peace and consolidate the democratic process in the country.

Once again the terrorists are trying to spread propaganda with their violent actions, which have claimed lives among the civilian population and damaged some homes. On many occasions the Armed Forces have reiterated the will to find peace through specific solutions. These violent actions, however, are taking place. The Salvadoran people are tired of this war. The Armed Forces are trying to determine the adequate mechanisms for finding peace for all Salvadorans.

This has been our preliminary report at this time. We will give more details later and expand this report. The Armed Forces staged special operations in Guazapa Hill last night and again this morning. Terrorist columns were detected, and apparently the FMLN sustained numerous casualties. At this moment the Armed Forces are conducting a mopping-up operation to determine the number of casualties inflicted on the FMLN.

Situation Deemed 'Under Control'

PA2011164490 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1508 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Statement read by an unidentified Armed Forces Press Committee spokesman in San Salvador—live]

[Text] The Armed Forces Press Committee, Coprefa, wishes to announce it has received reports from various parts of the country, as well as from the military units of Morazan and other areas where fighting, harassing actions, and attacks have taken place. The Salvadoran people should rest assured that at this hour of the morning, the situation is under control. The Salvadorans may now go to work safely, because—I repeat—the Army has the situation completely under control.

The Army is combing the area where the action took place to determine if there are any casualties and to clear the area from the explosives the rebels usually leave behind to harm soldiers and civilians, particularly the children.

The Armed Forces condemn these actions by the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] because we have reports that six civilians were wounded following the harassing actions in Apopa against Civil Defense members.

We also have preliminary reports to the effect that six homes near the 6th Infantry Brigade were damaged. We are trying to determine if there were any civilian casualties. In San Francisco Gotera, the situation is completely under control. The armed actions did not take place in the center of town, but in the outskirts. Several posts of Military Detachment 4 were attacked in that area. The situation is now totally calm.

I repeat, the Armed Forces control the situation throughout the nation. The Armed Forces are combing the area where harassing actions took place. There is nothing further to report. No civilians have been killed, but we regret that several civilians have been wounded and several homes destroyed as a result of this early morning's terrorist attack.

At this hour of the morning, we are trying to obtain more information from other areas in the country. In Chalatenango, military installations were harassed, and we are

waiting to hear if there was any harm done to the civilians living near Military Detachment 1.

We also want to avail ourselves of this opportunity to deny some reports that are being broadcast abroad. We have learned that The Netherlands and other European countries are saying that the FMLN has taken over several departments, such as Morazan, Usulutan, and Chalatenango. This is totally false. I repeat Military Detachment 1 has total control over that area. The information being disseminated abroad to the effect that the FMLN has seized towns and departments is totally false.

We hope the humanitarian organizations will issue a pronouncement concerning actions against civilians and will bear in mind that this is not a militarization of the country. [as heard] The Army is protecting the civilians. The various humanitarian organizations that advocate justice in this country should realize the Armed Forces are protecting the civilians. In a few hours, we will have a report on civilian casualties.

Apopa Said 'Still Critical'

PA2011170490 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1546 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Excerpt] At 0935 the situation is still critical in the city of Apopa, where guerrillas have taken up positions in the southern neighborhoods and are preparing military actions in the outlying areas. At this time we have toured the northern trunk highway to and from San Salvador and have been able to note a relative calm, although bus transportation has been cut virtually 50 percent at this hour of the morning.

It has been confirmed that traffic on the highway to Quezaltepeque is totally suspended. Since this morning, no bus or vehicle has left the city of Quezaltepeque, where there have also been armed incidents.

The people in Apopa are tense because the guerrillas are maintaining a strong presence at the Apopa cemetery and in one of the working-class neighborhoods, called La Hermita. Fearing incidents, residents have started to leave the southern area of the city where fighting has continued throughout the morning. The guerrillas have told the civilian population that they will stay there indefinitely.

Meanwhile, Army 1st Infantry Brigade troops have been deployed to Apopa along the northern trunk highway. We just spoke with rescue personnel, who said they had transferred to hospitals at least 10 combatants, including nine Army troops and one guerrilla. [passage omitted]

Update on FMLN Attacks

PA2011184090 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1734 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Report by the Armed Forces Press Committee (Coprefa) in San Salvador—live; read by unidentified Coprefa spokesman]

[Text] FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] terrorists, who last night and early this morning staged a number of attacks in various towns of the country, have killed seven civilians and wounded 11. More than 15 private homes were also damaged. Eleven terrorists and four soldiers, including an officer, died in the armed actions, mainly in Usulutan, Morazan, and Chalatenango departments and other areas north of San Salvador.

The Sixth Infantry Brigade command reported that five civilians were killed and at least six houses were damaged in an indiscriminate attack near the brigade headquarters in the town of Usulutan. During the actions at approximately 0300, three FMLN combatants were killed and three soldiers were wounded and taken to the military hospital. It has also been reported that the bodies of five subversives were found during combing operations outside the town of San Agustin, Usulutan Department. It was also reported that the installations of the Atonal Battalion were the target of a harassing attack but there were no casualties or damage. The Sixth Brigade also confirmed that the situation is under control.

Meanwhile, Captain Carlos Fernando Herrera Carranza, who was assigned to Military Detachment No. 4, was killed and four soldiers were wounded early this morning when they repelled a harassing attack on the outskirts of San Francisco Gotera in Morazan Department. The officer and the soldiers were protecting citizens near advance positions on the outskirts of the town. Two terrorists were killed and four terrorists were wounded, but the wounded were able to flee from the area. The situation is under control and patrols are combing various areas of Morazan Department.

We continue with more information. Six civilians were wounded and at least four houses were damaged in the (Chintu) neighborhood in Apopa during armed actions by the FMLN against military troops and the Civil Defense headquarters. It has also been reported that a Civil Defense member was killed and another wounded when they repelled the FMLN members, who indiscriminately set off explosives, without caring about the lives of the civilians or the damage to the houses. The Apopa authorities indicated that the action occurred at approximately 0330 and that National Guard positions guarding the Acelhuate bridge were also attacked. No casualties were reported.

The 1st Infantry Brigade also reported that at 0300, terrorist groups harassed military positions protecting the Mecafe coffee processing plant near Nejapa, where two soldiers were killed and four were wounded. The coffee processing plant was not damaged.

In Quezaltepeque, La Libertad Department, two policemen were wounded when they repelled an attack by subversives who were trying to enter the town to harm the civilian population at 0500.

Meanwhile, the Salvadoran Air Force [FAS] command reported this morning that three soldiers were wounded

when they clashed with terrorists. The soldiers seized a 57-mm recoiless gun with which the terrorists damaged an O-2 airplane and a barracks of the Airborne Battalion. The action occurred at 0100 when the terrorists were trying to cause greater damage to the FAS installations. A soldier inside the barracks was also injured. During a search operation, soldiers found approximately 20 fragmentation grenades which the subversives abandoned when they fled after being detected by the three soldiers. The three soldiers were wounded in an action which was described as heroic by the FAS commander.

Three crop-dusting planes were set on fire early this morning by terrorist groups which entered the Entre Rios cotton cooperative located a few kms from Zacatecolucas, La Paz Department. Three soldiers of the Military Engineers Detachment were wounded when they repelled the subversive groups which attacked Army positions in the area. As yet, no figures are available on the damage to the cotton cooperative, which suffered heavy losses.

Guerrillas Say 9 Dead, 32 Wounded

PA2011204690 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1929 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Report by Cristina Hasbun de Merino]

[Text] San Salvador, 20 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—After launching a new military campaign throughout the country, which has resulted in nine dead and 32 wounded over the past few hours, the Salvadoran guerrillas today announced that their forces have become a regular army.

The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) stated that with the beginning of the new campaign called "Punishment to the Anti-Democratic Armed Forces," it is also beginning the process of converting its forces into "the National Army for Democracy."

Since October 1980 five political-military organizations have made up the FMLN. The rebel group began its armed struggle to seize power with the January 1981 offensive.

So far the FMLN has carried out a war using hit-and-run tactics, deploying its forces to attack and harass the government troops. It has also maintained positions in various parts of the country with its urban commando units, military members, guerrillas, and special forces.

The objective of the new rebel operation "with limited purposes" is to pressure the Salvadoran Government and the Armed Forces to accelerate the process of negotiations that are being carried out with UN mediation.

The topic of the demilitarization of Salvadoran society caused the dialogue-negotiation process to reach an impasse in July after the Armed Forces refused to be dissolved, as the guerrillas demanded.

The guerrillas condition their demobilization to the dissolution of the Army, the creation of a new police force under civilian command, and the trial and punishment of the military members allegedly involved in committing thousands of political crimes.

Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani, however, who is also the Armed Forces commanding general, has said that the Armed Forces topic "is not negotiable," arguing that its existence is constitutional.

"Within the spirit of accelerating the negotiation process, the FMLN command has decided to respond militarily to the impunity, the repression, the Armed Forces operations, and the government's intransigence in rejecting the total demilitarization of society while seeking to maintain a criminal Army," the rebel communique stated.

It explained that "the National Army for Democracy is of a professional nature" and will be composed of soldiers, noncommissioned officers, and officers up to the rank of colonel, with a single general staff.

The FMLN warned today that if the government and the Army continue to resist the "international pressures and demands of the entire nation by opposing a political solution, we reserve the right to launch a large-scale military offensive in the short or medium term."

Rebels on Duration of Attack

PA2011214190 Paris AFP in Spanish 2050 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] San Salvador, 20 Nov (AFP)—Rebel leaders interviewed in the battle zones have said that the military offensive launched by the Salvadoran guerrillas early this morning might continue for several days.

Commander Fredy, 24, resting under a tree after fighting for more than six hours against the Army in Nejapa, 18 km north of the capital, said that "if the Army continues its actions against us, we will supplement our political actions with military operations."

The young guerrilla also said that "we do not know how long the attacks will last." The attack is aimed at "pressuring the government and the Army into negotiating with the rebels."

Fredy added, "today's actions do not contradict our position of meeting with the government at the negotiating table."

FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] columns burned a coffee processing plant in Nejapa and blocked traffic in the area by parking trucks in the middle of the highway and erecting barricades.

Another rebel leader interviewed during a lull in the fighting, which continued at noon today in Apopoa, only 12 km from San Salvador, told the Army to "be prepared because we are here indefinitely."

Residents of Apopa, who are fleeing the fighting said that "the guerrillas have entrenched themselves in our homes, endangering the lives of the civilian population."

The residents, who escaped an FMLN checkpoint in the Hermita de Apopa neighborhood—one of the most densely populated sectors of San Salvador's outskirts—said that FMLN fighters "have ordered the civilian population to erect barricades made of brick and pieces of wood."

An official report indicated that up to midday Tuesday there were about 50 casualties, including dead and wounded, although estimates by rescue organizations indicated that the number of dead and wounded could surpass that figure.

Violent clashes continued in the eastern city of Usulutan this afternoon. Usulutan medical sources reported that 70 wounded, including military and civilians, had been admited to Usulutan's hospital. More armed clashes were reported in Chalatenango and other points of the country.

The guerrillas launched simultaneous military operations early this morning in at least five main towns in Chalatenango, Morazan, Usulutan, La Libertad, Cuzcatlan, and in La Paz Departments. They also attacked the Ilopango Air Force headquarters, on the outskirts of San Salvador.

The FMLN command said that the offensive is intended to force Alfredo Cristiani's government to seek a negotiated solution to the conflict that has left over 70,000 dead in 10 years.

According to guerrilla sources, a "secret meeting" was to have taken place in Mexico today between guerrilla and government representatives to analyze a plan presented by the United Nations to dismantle both armies.

Government on FMLN Offensive

PA2011222590 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 2205 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Communique issued by the government in San Salvador on 20 November]

[Text] For the past several months the government has been objectively reporting on tne FMLN's [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] preparations to launch a new terrorist offensive against the Salvadoran people in an attempt to hinder the pacification process and to destroy the nation's institutionality.

From the beginning of his government, President Alfredo Cristiani proposed a dialogue to the FMLN to seek a peaceful solution of the armed conflict. For the past year and a half the government has proven its political resolve to establish peace.

The president's request that UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar mediate in the peace process constitutes irrefutable proof of the seriousness and responsibility with which the government has sought the peace that the Salvadoran people so desire.

During the dialogue process initiated under the auspices of Dr. Perez de Cuellar as a result of the Geneva Agreement, the government commission has participated seriously and constructively, but the FMLN has responded to its flexible and conciliatory position with a radical and stubborn attitude that has made it impossible to attain significant progress in the search for peace.

Nevertheless, the government representatives, in an effort to strengthen and promote the talks and facilitate the achievement of agreements that would make the end of the armed conflict possible, have proposed new mechanisms and the strengthening of the role played by Dr. Alvaro de Soto, the UN secretary general's personal representative. These new conditions, which have been accepted, will allow substantial progress in the peace process.

The FMLN, meanwhile, evidently rejecting the Salvadoran people's demands for peace and, ratifying its warmongering attitude, has initiated, for the purposes stated on the night of 19 November, a new offensive and has perpetrated a series of terrorist actions that have caused the deaths of many civilians and considerable property damage.

This criminal aggression by the FMLN against the civilian population has found our Armed Forces prepared to fulfill its constitutional duty, which has allowed them to counteract and repel the FMLN terrorist groups.

The Salvadoran Armed Forces are resolved to make the ultimate sacrifice to defend the citizens' lives and properties, the Republic's institutionality, and the democratic process that has cost our suffering people so many sacrifices.

The government is calling on all of the Republic's inhabitants to maintain confidence in their Armed Forces, and is asking them to support our fatherland's defense by providing any type of information that would be useful in detecting and neutralizing the terrorist groups.

The Salvadoran Government denounces the FMLN to the nation's conscience and to the international community because of its failure to fulfill the pledges it made within the pacification process and because of its lack of resolve and good faith to end the conflict by civilized means. [Dated] 20 November 1990 Government of the Republic of El Salvador

Government Denies Curfew Rumors

PA2111001990 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 2350 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Attention. The reports in this capital and in various parts of the country about a curfew beginning at 1800 today are totally false. We repeat, it is not true that

a curfew has been decreed in El Salvador or in this capital by either of the two conflicting sectors.

The government has asked the people to remain calm, and so far, the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] spokesmen have not issued any announcements, information, or reports about a curfew. We repeat, these rumors are not true. Do not pay attention to them. It is not true, as some people are reporting by telephone, that a curfew will be in effect as of 1800 today.

Attack Confirmed on Zacamil

PA2111011890 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0044 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] San Salvador, 20 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—A military source has reported that early this evening Salvadoran guerrillas began an attack on the National Police garrison in the heavily populated Zacamil neighborhood, north of San Salvador.

An Army spokesman told ACAN-EFE that the rebel attack, which began at 1800 local (0000 GMT), has paralyzed transportation in the area, as citizens desperately try to reach their homes.

The explosions caused panic among the citizens; serious traffic jams are forming.

Zacamil Calm After 'Harassment'

PA2111021490 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 0050 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Report by Rene Hurtado]

[Text] Good evening, listeners. We have entered Zacamil, which appears to be relatively calm, according to some soldiers who had put rocks in the middle of the streets to block the passage from the National University sector to the Libertad neighborhood. The soldiers said that the National Police garrison in Zacamil had been attacked. There is a tense calm in the area. Vehicles are being diverted. It is possible to go through, with due precaution, despite the shooting a few minutes ago near the police garrison in Zacamil. No major incidents have been reported, apart from the two soldiers who were said to be wounded during the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] harassment of the National Police garrison. We now turn to Raul Beltran for a live report on the situation in Zacamil:

[Raul Beltran] The university campus in the south of the city seems desolate. There are very few vehicles circulating, and some people are asking about the situation in the city's periphery. Everything seems quiet near the former site of the National Institute. No buses are circulating. The people who were in the vicinity of the university campus are walking to safer places. Access to the IVU [Housing Institute] area and the university campus is blocked and is in darkness. The soldiers placed obstacles in the streets to block the passage of vehicles and to prevent civilian casualties.

FMLN 'Terrorist Attacks' Condemned

PA2111023790 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 0112 GMT 21 Nov 90

["Communique No. 2" issued by the Salvadoran Government in San Salvador on 20 November]

[Text] Reporting to the local and international public, the Salvadoran Government hereby condemns the terrorist attacks that the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] has perpetrated against the civilian population of El Salvador, which the FMLN leaders have tried to justify by saying it is a military campaign. The falseness of this assertion can be easily confirmed by observing that other cities that were attacked—such as Apopa, Nejapa, Quezaltepeque, Guazapa, and Santa Elena, and small towns such as Azacualpa and others, all of which were the victims of terrorist attacks before dawn today—are not and have never been military targets, but are peaceful urban or agricultural centers inhabited by hundreds of thousands of people.

For instance, most of the people living in Apopa and (?Nezorintepeque) work in local manufacturing plants or San Salvador shops. There are not even large garrisons or other military installations near these towns, where more than 350,000 people live. These civilians, however, suffered for many hours the panic of the FMLN's terrorist attack on small posts which protect the citizens. The attack was perpetrated with powerful explosives and automatic weapons. The explosions and bullets left people dead and wounded, homes and shops destroyed, and banks looted. This is just further evidence that El Salvador, like other civilized nations of the world, is the victim of terrorism and that, while the FMLN announces abroad its alleged willingness to negotiate, it deals brutally with defenseless civilians in El Salvador.

The Salvadoran Government hereby reiterates its determination to continue to find a political solution to the armed conflict. It seeks to persuade the FMLN to abandon violence so that the organization can peacefully join the democratic process. The Salvadoran Armed Forces will do their duty to protect the civilian population and defend the country's institutional order, regardless of the cost.

[Dated] San Salvador, 20 November 1990.

[Signed] The Government of the Republic of El Salvador.

FMLN Claims 200 Army Casualties

PA2111031990 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0157 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The Salvadoran capital is virtually deserted tonight due to fears of renewed

clashes, even though the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] has announced that it will only attack military targets.

On a Radio Farabundo Marti broadcast, the FMLN announced tonight that in scarcely 18 hours of combat it had inflicted approximately 200 casualties on the Armed Forces in the northern part of the country in Chalatenango Department.

Ponce Updates Casualties, Damage

PA2111044890 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 0321 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Statement by Defense Minister Colonel Rene Emilio Ponce on 21 November; place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] Good evening, Salvadoran people. Just as the Armed Forces had announced earlier, the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] launched a terrorist offensive, beginning during the evening of 19 November and continuing. This proves that there is dissension in the ranks of the FMLN's leadership. This proves that the doctrine of warmongering and violence has prevailed within the FMLN. As the Armed Forces have said, this means that the FMLN is against peace and the hope that we all share.

The actions perpetrated by the FMLN since the evening of 19 November have been in the following areas: in the central regions they attacked the Air Force, Nejapa, Quezaltepeque, and Apopa. In the northern regions they attacked Chalatenango City. In the eastern regions they attacked San Francisco Gotera, Usulutan, Hacienda La Carrera, the Incafe [National Coffee Institute] coffee mill, the (El Angel) sugar mill, and the (?Entre Rios) cotton- producing cooperative.

The results of these warmongering actions have primarily and unfortunately affected the civilian population, and can be summarized as follows:

Among our own troops we must report the heroic death of 12 troops, among them Captain Herrera Carranza from Military Detachment No. 4 in Gotera; 66 Army troops were wounded. Within the enemy ranks, the deaths of 10 terrorists have been confirmed, and an undisclosed number have been wounded.

The Public Health Ministry reports that three civilians were killed and approximately 50 wounded. I can also mention that three light airplanes worth approximately 2 million colones were destroyed at the (?Entre Rios) cotton-producing cooperative. At Hacienda La Carrera, a light airplane was damaged.

A considerable number of homes were damaged in the cities that were attacked. At the Air Force [base], one O-2 observation airplane was destroyed. One radio relay station was damaged during the attack on El Pacayal. In Chalatenango, two CICR [International Red Cross Committee] ambulances were set on fire, and the regional hospital also suffered damages. These are the damages that the FMLN has inflicted on our people.

According to our intelligence reports, the FMLN may intensify its terrorist actions, causing further suffering for our people. Nevertheless, the Armed Forces remains alert. We are working 24 hours a day to defend the system and our people.

The Armed Forces High Command trusts and is certain that our soldiers' bravery, resolve to struggle, high morale, and professionalism, which we have displayed throughout this struggle, will allow us to once again defeat the FMLN on the battlefield. We proved this in 1981 and 1989. I hope that the FMLN will change its attitude.

To conclude, I must ask Salvadorans to continue cooperating with us by providing any information which will allow us to better protect them, defend the Republic's institutionality, and defend their lives and property. We will not allow the FMLN to attempt to attain political power in El Salvador through violence.

Cristiani Message to Nation

PA2111050690 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 0327 GMT 21 Nov 90

["Message" to nation by President Alfredo Cristiani on 21 November; place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] Good evening, Salvadoran people. We have just heard Defense Minister Colonel Rene Emilio Ponce, who reported on the actions that took place today, which constitute a new terrorist offensive unleashed by the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front]. I wish to start this message by expressing our recognition to all of the Armed Forces members who have again bravely defended our country and the Salvadoran people. I wish to especially express our deep gratitude to those who today gave their lives for the freedom and democracy of El Salvador and those who were wounded in this regrettable situation brought about by this terrorist aggression.

The FMLN aired a communique this morning trying to tell us that these actions were perpetrated to speed up the peace process being conducted under the sponsorship of the UN secretary general. Unfortunately, as we have said many times before, all that these violent actions do is endanger the peace process. Violence only begets more violence and will never permit conditions for peace, which requires reasoning, flexibility, and willingness to reach accords to put an end to this useless bloodshed to which the FMLN wants to subject the Salvadoran people. In addition, the FMLN asserted that these are military actions of a limited scope.

Nevertheless, we have heard the minister report that the FMLN perpetrated large-scale attacks on various cities, particularly Chalatenango, San Francisco Gotera, and Usulutan. We want to report that this is not a limited action and that, on the contrary, it again constitutes an

unjustified terrorist offensive. Unfortunately, this attack cannot be described as a military action because, as usual, the civilians are the most affected. We have also heard the minister report on the number of innocent civilians who were wounded during this new FMLN terrorist aggression. On 1 June we called the FMLN to conduct a continual and permanent peace process, not because we were afraid of the FMLN, but for humanitarian reasons. It is inconceivable that, considering the democratic process that the Salvadoran people have enjoyed and supported during all these years, the people must continue to make the greatest of sacrifices in this armed conflict. We believe that it is time that the FMLN be told that enough is enough.

Tonight we want to make a commentary, may I repeat, not out of fear, but in behalf of the Salvadoran people who are suffering these terrorist FMLN aggressions. We want to tell you FMLN leaders that, far from expediting the dialogue process for peace, you are jeopardizing it. Violence will escalate into a confrontation that will not permit the necessary frame of mind to reach an accord. We are especially inviting you to stop harming the civilian population so much. We believe that the FMLN is not at all justified in acting like this. We can only understand this attack in the light of the division within the FMLN, in which there are still sick minds which persist on using violence. New mechanisms and procedures to speed up the process were discussed in Mexico not long ago to make it possible to strike an accord as soon as possible so that the armed conflict can stop. Today, the UN secretary general told the FMLN this very same thing. It is incredible for the FMLN to have accepted these mechanisms less than two weeks ago, which included a more active participation by the mediator, Dr. Alvaro de Soto, the representative of the UN secretary general, and now say that they justify these terrorist actions because the peace process must be expedited. Speed in the peace process is not attained through violence. It is achieved through reasonable, flexible stances. Let the FMLN take into account the reality of the country and stop instilling fear in and massacring the Salvadoran people.

Salvadoran people, unfortunately, we feel that we cannot trust what the FMLN does. It is very possible that those sick minds, the minds of the most radical sectors of the FMLN will want to continue and intensify the actions that they launched early this morning. This is why we are asking all to trust the Armed Forces. The Armed Forces are capable of defending our people and will do so because the Armed Forces are convinced that our people want to live in freedom and democracy. The Armed Forces will play its role not only because it is a constitutional requirement, but because every soldier shares this feeling of defending his brother, who wants to live in peace and tranquility. We should all support peace. We all should know that these violent actions will yield no good. Far from this. They will bring only suffering and grief.

We must all support this peace process with all our hearts, because this peace process is the truest and closest hope we have to living in peace without the fear that one of our children may be killed any day or that an explosive charge may explode and ruin more lives. We must all flatly reject the cynicism of the FMLN, which unreasonably tries to go on killing. The FMLN not only destroys what they describe as military targets. The three bank branches in Quezaltepeque are far from being military targets, yet they were destroyed and looted them. In Hacienda (?La Carrera), a cooperative of the reformed sector that is trying to forge ahead, the FMLN destroyed a light plane which is a working instrument. Other crop-dusting planes belonging to farmers were also destroyed in Entrerrios in Zacatecoluca. We must not remain silent and accept this as—like the FMLN wants us to believe—something necessary to promote peace.

Peace must be promoted by every one of us Salvadorans who do believe in peace, and not by those who have shown that they neither believe in peace nor have the good faith to negotiate. The latter group has the traitorous, bad faith to try to give the impression that they are trying to reach accords while they are planning new offensives that, as I have said, unfortunately harm the civilian population, you, and all of the Salvadoran people.

That is why we must all unite once again in favor of peace and against violence. We must reject the FMLN and trust our Armed Forces and join them in defending the democratic process. We must defend the Salvadoran people's free institutions.

Whenever you see any strange movements by armed people, report them. The Armed Forces have already announced the telephone numbers you can call, putting them on guard so that these people will not harm and destroy and kill. The Armed Forces will defend you. They will react with you and for you.

Salvadorans, we must all be aware that the Armed Forces have all these situations under control. The Armed Forces are defending you and are alert to any other FMLN maneuvers. Let us be calm with the knowledge that you have strong support. You have the support of the government and the Armed Forces, which will continue fighting until we achieve peace. They will achieve peace for you, the Salvadoran people. May God bless you.

Capital, Other Areas Without Power

PA2111055290 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0341 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] Broad areas of the country are without power following the latest sabotage perpetrated by the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] against the national power network. According to the CEL [Lempa River Hydroelectric Executive Commission], at least eight primary transmitting lines are out of service following the guerrillas' sabotage on the night of 19 November and at dawn on 20 November.

Among the areas most affected are the eastern and northern parts of the country, and some central departments including San Salvador. According to the CEL, the national [power] deficit surpasses 20 percent, due to which rationing has been enforced, lasting up to six hours in certain areas.

Meanwhile, the CAESS [Electric Light Company of El Salvador] has confirmed that a large portion of the capital and sectors of La Libertad and La Paz Departments are without power. The CAESS pointed out that in northern San Salvador it still is not known when power will be restored, because the CAESS units have not yet been able to gain access to all of the structures that were dynamited.

Meanwhile, ANDA [National Administration of Waterworks and Sewers] has announced that as of 20 November potable water services will be rationed in various cities on the outskirts of the capital. In a communique ANDA stated that the measure was adopted as a result of the guerrilla sabotage on the power network, which interrupts the potable water pumping system.

According to ANDA, the communities affected by rationing are Santa Lucia, Ilopango, Soyapanga, and areas close by. Also affected are the Coruna, and Santos I and II neighborhoods, and the townships of Mejicanos, Ayutuxtepeque, Cuscatancingo, San Marcos, Santo Tomas, Santiago Textacuangos, and Ciudad Merliot, the Las Delicias neighborhood, and Los Chorros in Santa Tecla.

Cristiani Criticizes FMLN Position on Peace Talks

PA2011141790 Paris AFP in Spanish 0500 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] San Salvador, 19 Nov (AFP)—Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani has described as "selfish" the position of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) guerrillas who have threatened to boycott the March legislative elections if no substantial agreements are reached in the peace negotiations.

"I emphatically criticize this selfish position that does not in any way take into consideration the Salvadoran people," Cristiani told the press on the night of 19 November when he referred to the guerrillas' threat.

FMLN leaders have warned that if no agreements are reached in the next round of talks with the government, especially regarding the "demilitarization" of the country, they will boycott the electoral process because the elections "would again be at the service of the war and repression."

Cristiani said the rebels' position "ignores the people's will, which is above any other interest."

The Central Electoral Council (CEE) has announced the elections for new legislative and municipal officials will be held on 10 March.

Talks To Continue Despite Offensive

PA2111134190 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1213 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] The Salvadoran Government has said that it will definitely continue peace negotiations with the Salvadoran guerrillas, despite a new rebel military offensive which has made the peace efforts more difficult.

Presidency Vice Minister Ernesto Altschul condemned the attacks by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] against military garrisons and positions in five of the 14 departments of El Salvador, which resulted in 50 casualties, according to official sources.

The FMLN General Command stated in a communique that the military campaign called "Punishment of the Antidemocratic Army" seeks to pressure the government and the Armed Forces to accept negotiations on the future role of the Armed Forces and the demilitarization of Salvadoran society.

A guerrilla identified as Freddy told newsmen in northern San Salvador that the military manuever is intended to improve the rebels' position at the negotiating table and promote the content of their revolutionary program. Freddy is cited as saying: Our actions are not opposed to talks because an agreement was signed in Geneva whereby both parties agreed not to withdraw from the negotiations. Our military actions and the negotiations will continue on course because there is no commitment for a cease-fire.

Altschul described as a large-scale offensive the attacks staged by the guerrillas against the Army in the cities of Apopa, Nejapa, Quezaltepeque, northern San Salvador, Chalatenango, Cuscatlan, Usulutan, Morazan, and Napa. The armed clashes resulted in 50 casualties and several damaged homes, according to military sources. The rebels attacked the electricity system, burned a state vehicle and a coffee-processing plant, and destroyed two banking agencies.

General Rafael Villamariona, Salvadoran Air Force commander, said that the guerrillas' attacks are desperate actions seeking to show that they are still strong. The rebels wounded four troops and destroyed a military barracks and a U.S.-made O-2 reconnaissance aircraft in their attack on the country's principal air base on Tuesday morning.

Obviously disregarding the people's desire for peace and reiterating its belligerent stand, the FMLN has initiated a new offensive and staged a series of terrorist actions that have killed many civilians and caused considerable damage to citizens' property, Altchsul said while reading a government communique.

He also accused the guerrillas of failing to fulfill the agreements reached during the peace process and of a lack of good will to solve the problem in a civilized manner. Altschul noted that the Army secret service has detected many terrorists in the metropolitan area and

rebel columns that are ready to strengthen guerrilla positions at a given moment.

Cristiani Views Jesuits' Case, FMLN Talks

PA2111002790 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1230 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Interview with President Alfredo Cristiani by unidentified reporter at the International Fair in San Salvador on 19 November—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Mr. President, I understand that you met with the Spanish parliamentarians to discuss the Jesuit issue. What was said at the meeting?

[Cristiani] I spoke of the events surrounding the case, of certain procedures required by our legal processes, and of my efforts to support the judge as much as possible. I said also that I am interested in reaching the bottom of the matter and that I would like the perpetrators to be brought to justice.

[Reporter] Concerning the dialogue, it has been announced that it will resume on 26 November in Caracas, Venezuela. Is this true, Mr. President?

[Cristiani] As you all know, I have certain reservations about revealing any news or information concerning the subject. Any information must come from the UN secretary general. Nevertheless, I believe that everything is going well.

[Reporter] Do you believe that the new meeting will be positive?

[Cristiani] I repeat, any information concerning the subject must be disclosed by the UN secretary general.

[Reporter] Mr. President, it has been mentioned that there are probably more military men involved in the Jesuits' murder. Are you aware of this situation?

[Cristiani] No, not at all. I favor an in-depth investigation. Whether more soldiers are involved or not is a matter that must be established in accordance with our country's legal procedures. If more soldiers are involved, fine. If not, the matter is to get to the bottom of the problem and to have justice done.

[Reporter] The head of the Spanish parliamentarian commission said that he would demand an explanation from the government regarding the causes of the delays in the legal procedures. What do you have to say about this, Mr. President?

[Cristiani] I believe that the Salvadoran process has its own peculiarities. I believe that the judge should answer this question because he is in charge of the judicial process. I believe that his intention is to search for every possible clue and to do a job that will not be regarded later as incomplete. This takes time. Legal procedures in other countries require even more time. Some trials in the United States last very long. Anywhere in the world, even in Spain, some trials last a long time.

I believe that haste is not the main issue in justice. Justice requires a knowledge of the truth, the honest truth, and not speculation. To do justice does not mean to make haste but to do things properly, in accordance with procedure, and to attempt to truly discover the truth of the case.

[Reporter] Mr. President, could you talk to us about the International Fair [words indistinct]?

[Cristiani] I believe that the fair is, in reality, an encouraging event. It is encouraging to see the number of international and national participants and the entrepreneurial spirit displayed toward the exhibits that I viewed at the inauguration.

Another thing that is very pleasing to me is the response of the Salvadoran people who have visited the fair. In my opinion this is very important because it enables Salvadoran industrialists and producers to make themselves known to the public and, therefore, to gradually develop an economic dynamic that will be beneficial to everyone: producers, industrialists, and local consumers. To the extent that production increases there will be more jobs, greater competition, and better or more reasonable prices for the public. I believe that this fair has proven that there is something new in the country, that development has become a force. I believe that there are signs of economic stabilization, which was our main goal in promoting development, and that the international fair is a result of this.

Of course, I am also very pleased that foreign countries are participating. I understand that this fair has had the broadest foreign participation in terms of the number of countries represented. This is pleasing to me because these countries can see that once again El Salvador is capable of absorbing foreign investments that will bear fruit in our country.

[Reporter] What economic problems will be discussed in the forthcoming Central American presidential summit?

[Cristiani] There have been a number of preparatory meetings for the summit, during which attempts have been made to follow up the Antigua, Guatemala agreements. The purpose of these meetings is to establish a few specific topics which the presidents can discuss regarding the gradual integration of the Central American countries. Politics, of course, must be discussed because it is important that the political processes continue. Nevertheless, I believe that economics should begin to take on the same importance.

[Reporter] Mr. President, what goals have you set for the meeting in Mexico?

[Cristiani] It will be held at the Mexican president's invitation. The idea is to continue promoting and consolidating relations between Mexico and the Central American region.

[Reporter] Mr. President, what is the [words indistinct] the defense attorneys have requested a stay of proceedings for the military men involved in the case. What is your opinion?

[Cristiani] My opinion is that the judge must decide that. It is a matter that pertains entirely to the judicial branch and to the judge handling the case.

[Reporter] Mr. President, on 18 November Monsignor Rosa Chavez said that the forthcoming dialogue could be one of the most important because very important agreements pertaining to the country's pacification could be reached. As president, do you share this opinion?

[Cristiani] In my opinion, individual meetings are not very important. The key issue is that a process is under way in our country, a serious, continuous process under the [UN] secretary general's auspices, which enhances its special quality as—in my opinion—an irreversible process through which we will gradually establish peace in El Salvador.

I attach great importance to the existence and maintenance of this process because I still hope that within the short or medium term we will see results regarding the disappearance of violence. I am not one to be very much or very little enthusiastic about an individual meeting. I favor the continuation of the process. I believe that progress has been made over the past year, more so than in the previous 10 years, and this is important. The process is actively continuing.

Of course, as the process advances, ideas must increasingly draw closer and eventually our meetings will move at a faster pace. I believe that the key issue is the very existence of a serious process.

[Reporter] Upon his arrival in Costa Rica [words indistinct] Salvador Samayoa considered the possibility of reaching agreements prior to the elections. Do you agree with this, Mr. President?

[Cristiani] I regret this position because it is a strictly partisan position that totally disregards the Salvadoran people's will. The Salvadoran people are interested solely in peace, which stands above any partisan political interests. As for reaching agreements prior to or after the elections because of the influence they could exert, that seems to me a very selfish position in view of the violence, bloodshed, civilian deaths, and destruction that is taking place in the country. I must categorically criticize such an altogether selfish position because it absolutely fails to take the Salvadoran people into consideration, and is strictly a personal position aimed at private political interests.

Spanish Delegation on Jesuits' Case

PA2111004090 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 16 Nov 90 p 2

[Text] The Spanish parliamentarians, who are visiting the country to learn about the Jesuits murder case, expressed their support for the peace efforts made by the Salvadoran Government.

In a news conference held at the Spanish Embassy, the head of the delegation, Luis Fajardo Spinola, was very cautious when giving his opinion regarding the judicial process of those indicted in the Jesuits case.

The members of the Spanish delegation said they do not have enough facts to formulate an opinion, but their meetings with the government, the Armed Forces, the church, and political parties are helping to give them a better overall idea.

They pointed out that up until now, they have not seen anything to contradict the information in the Moakley report. They added, however, that this does not mean everything is coincidental, because their goal is different. These are different times, and El Salvador does not think along the same lines as the United States does, they added.

They did reaffirm their trust in Dr. Ricardo Zamora, 4th Criminal Court judge, and on the job he is doing on the Jesuits' case. After holding talks with him, they said they were left with the impression that there is a real commitment to get to the truth and to punish those found guilty.

The parliamentarians made reference to the case of the Spanish woman, Bendona Garcia Aravigoyen—killed while accompanying FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] groups—who was supposedly hit by shots while in combat. But a recent autopsy performed by specialists in Spain indicated that a shot was fired at her neck at a short range. If confirmed, it would totally contradict the official version released in El Salvador of the circumstances surrounding her death.

If this is true, they said, they will ask the Salvadoran Government to clear up the assassination, take those responsible to trial, and punish them.

Finally, they said they were well treated by the government and by the military officers with whom they met.

Arrest Ordered for Men Implicated

PA2111140590 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1226 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] The Fourth Penal Court has decreed the provisional arrest of nine military members, along with the attachment of their property, for the crimes of proposing and conspiring to commit acts of terrorism in the vile assassination of six Jesuit priests from the Central American University [UCA], in addition to two women.

The resolution announced yesterday states that the attachments range between 5,000 and 10,000 colones. The arrests were ordered on charges of plotting and preparing terrorist acts, except in the case of Colonel Guillermo Alfredo Benavides. In addition, Lieutenant (Yushi) Rene Mendoza has been accused of aiding and abetting the crimes, which involve planning the murders and sending troops to the UCA to carry them out, according to the resolution.

Nicaragua

Vice President Godoy Views Mayors' Demands

PA2011185990 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network 0330 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Interview with Vice President Virgilio Godoy by unidentified reporters during a ceremony in Managua to receive an award from California Lutheran College; date not given—recorded; from the independent "Extravision" newscast]

[Text] [Godoy] I believe almost all mayors in Nicaragua support the demands of the mayors in Region 5. We must take into account that the events which took place there were no invention. Evidently there are serious problems there which we must solve. Many times these problems cannot be solved by the municipal governments alone. If the central government does not give them a hand and does not contribute to the solution of the problems, then problems which are even more serious will be created.

[Reporter] Do you agree with the mayors' demands that certain government officials, such as Antonio Lacayo and General Ortega, should be dismissed?

[Godoy] The mayors believe these officials have not contributed to the solution of their problems; therefore, they believe other officials should be appointed. That is what I can tell you.

[Reporter] What is your opinion?

[Godoy] My opinion is that the mayors make their demands, and solutions should be provided to them.

[Reporter] How is the vice president right now? Weak or strong?

[Godoy] I always feel the same way. You can see I am calm, at ease, without problems, receiving this award from California Lutheran College. I have accepted it from people who believe something has been done in the country and who believe it is worthwhile to keep supporting these actions.

[Reporter] What do you believe is the formula to finding a peaceful solution to the latest conflicts?

[Godoy] We have been saying it all along. The formula is this: to search for a national unity in which everyone contributes his share. We do not need those who take the whole lot and leave the rest with nothing.

[Reporter] Would you be willing to represent the government in the next negotiations? A government official said that you may possibly be presenting the proposal to the mayors on behalf of the government.

[Godoy] It all depends. If the government asked me to do it and gave me the necessary authority to do it, of course I would accept. If they want to send me there with no authority at all, however, that would make no sense.

[Reporter] There are those who say that Aristides Sanchez has been sent into exile. What is your opinion?

[Godoy] It would be setting a bad precedent for the new government. This would be the first person to leave the country as an exile. Logic tells me that if the government is continuously handling the situation using words of pardon and reconciliation, it should be applied in this case as well, regardless of the reasons why Aristides Sanchez was arrested. Personally, I disagree with his imprisonment, for which very vague reasons have been given.

FNT Blames Godoy for Unrest, Calls for Solution

PA2011144390 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1229 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Communique issued by the National Workers Front (FNT); place and date not given]

[Text] In view of the current situation in the country, the FNT issues the following statement:

The workers who are affiliated with the different organizations that compose the FNT have reviewed the situation in the country and have deemed the following:

1. Virgilio Godoy is leading the disturbances that are sabotaging the beginning of the period of stability and trust which the Nicaraguan people achieved with the concerted agreements.

2. The disturbances in which groups of former contras, deputies, mayors, and Bishop Pablo Vega are participating openly violate the constitutional order and constitute a potential coup d'etat as well as an imminent return to war, which will worsen the economic crisis.

3. The FNT defends the interests of workers and demands from the constitutional government of the Republic of Nicaragua the following:

a. To guarantee the agreements that have been signed because they lead to the preservation of a climate of peace and social stability, which in turn contributes to a resolution of the economic crisis.

b. To fulfill the economic and social concerted agreements.

c. To provide an immediate solution for all unemployed people in the cities and rural areas by promoting the

work done by the National Agrarian Commission, and to immediately transfer lands that will benefit the people who have demobilized or been displaced by the war.

d. To seek quick solutions to urban unemployment, and to immediately fulfill the promises made to the soldiers who have been discharged from the Sandinist People's Army.

In its communique the FNT also states:

1. In case the Nicaraguan Government does not fulfill the signed agreements, the FNT will defend the concerted agreements on the streets and in rural and urban labor centers with all the means available to it. So as to preserve peace and social stability, the FNT will not recognize any other agreement that undermines the implementation of the concerted agreements.

2. The FNT calls on all its affiliates, rank and file labor unions, federations, organizations, and associations, as well as the peace-loving Nicaraguan people, to carry out the following actions:

a. To defend true democracy as expressed in respect for the rights of all citizens and the peace commitments of the Nicaraguan people.

b. To reject by all means available all groups that endanger the lives of the workers and citizens.

c. To organize the defense of every labor center in every city and rural area, in every neighborhood and village, to avoid criminal actions and disturbances provoked by the vandals, who are followers of the fascist Godoy.

Finally in the communique, they state:

The FNT will carry out the necessary actions, and it asks that the government ensure a peaceful Christmas for all workers and citizens of Nicaragua.

In the defense of employment and salary, not one step back!

[Signed] FNT

Contra Commander Warns of 'Civil Uprising'

PA2011203790 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1335 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Report by Andreu Claret]

[Excerpt] Managua, 20 Nov (ACAN-EFE)— A large sector of the Nicaraguan "contras" demobilized last June has threatened the government of President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro with a "civil uprising" if she does not accept the group's demands and removes Sandinist General Humberto Ortega as chief of the Army.

"There might be an uprising with demonstrations and roadblocks throughout the nation if the government does not provide us with land and safety and dismiss Gen. Ortega," Oscar Sovalbarro, aka Commander Ruben, has told ACAN-EFE.

"Ruben" said that his organization does not have weapons, but he warned "it would not be difficult at all to obtain them because there are weapons all over the country. If we wanted to, we could have already taken those weapons," Ruben added.

When the 23,000 "contra" fighters were demobilized on 27 June after signing an agreement with the government, "Ruben" was the No. 2 man of the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] that fought against the Sandinist regime with U.S. support.

According to the agreement that has been supervised by the United Nations and the OAS, the rebels and their families turned over their weapons and received land in some "development poles" that were set up for them.

The former guerrilla, who now is the leader of a "Civic Organization of the RN" that is made up of the important leaders of the organization, said that "the agreements are not being implemented." Sovalbarro added that "our people are being ousted from their land by the Sandinists, and we are being harassed by the police."

Last week, four policemen were killed when a grenade exploded as they tried to evict demonstrators that were blocking a highway about 100 km from Managua. The demonstrations have left a toll of 24 dead in the last few weeks and created a new source of friction between the Chamorro government and those who supported her in the struggle against Sandinism.

"If the government continues to be allied with the Sandinists, discontent will grow and the people might use the last resort," Ruben warned when he was asked about the possibility of armed clashes. [passage omitted]

Hurtado Involves Sanchez in Destabilization Plan

PA2111061190 Paris AFP in Spanish 0257 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] Managua, 20 Nov (AFP)—Nicaraguan Government Minister Carlos Hurtado on Tuesday accused former contra chief Aristides Sanchez of being the coordinator of a foiled destabilization plan.

Sanchez, who was captured on 15 November and sent to the United States for medical treatment on 19 November, was accused by Hurtado of "directing activities to pressure the government" of Violeta Chamorro.

During a news conference Hurtado said that Sanchez was coordinating the blocking of roads and occupation of public offices to provoke chaos in the country.

Sanchez' plan would strengthen the protest of a group of former contras and some 20 ruling party mayors who, in the past two weeks, have blocked several roads, demanding the removal of some Chamorro government officials.

According to Hurtado, the authorities spotted "movements and picked up coded messages" transmitted with

modern radio equipment that was found inside the headquarters of the former contras' civic organization, where Sanchez' offices in Managua are located.

There are "other persons involved," Hurtado said. He refused to identify them, however, claiming that the investigations had not been completed.

On 19 November the Nicaraguan Government released a statement made by Sanchez before he left the country. In the statement Sanchez implicates Vice President Virgilio Godoy in the destabilization plan.

Likewise, Sanchez accused ruling party Deputies Agustin Jarquin, Humberto Castilla, Azucena Ferrey, and Managua Mayor Arnoldo Aleman of being accomplices to the plan.

Meanwhile, the government regained control of the roads in the southeastern sector of the country that had been blocked by former contras and ruling party mayors and began talks with other groups who are occupying several churches.

It was officially announced that President Chamorro will travel to Juigalpa, 130 km southeast of Managua, on 21 November to meet with some rebel mayors and hear their demands.

* BCIE Grants $20 Million Loan

91P40039A

[Editorial Report] An article in the 30 October 1990 issue of the Managua Spanish-language newspaper LA PRENSA reports on page 2 that, according to an agreement signed by Central Bank President Francisco Mayorga and Central American Bank of Economic Integration [BCIE] Vice President Jose Miguel Gaitan, the BCIE will loan Nicaragua $20 million. According to the article, $18 million, to be paid back over ten years with a four-year grace period, will be used for programs to reactivate industry and develop agroindustry and nontraditional exports. The remaining $2 million will be given by the Central Bank to small and medium-sized businesses.

Panama

Endara on Planned Strike, Relations With Cuba

PA2011183390 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1730 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] A great number of fellow party members welcomed on 17 November His Excellency President Guillermo Endara Galimany upon his return from Tokyo, Japan, where he participated in Emperor Akihito's coronation ceremonies.

Endara was festively received at Tocumen International Aiport. There was a mood full of political euphoria, which was enhanced by folkloric dancers. He was met by Vice Presidents Ricardo Arias Calderon and Guillermo Ford and some Cabinet ministers. Endara, in his first statement upon his return to Panama, opposed the strike announced by public workers for 5 December and clarified that relations with Cuba are at a very low level, thus there is no room for discussing the reestablishment of diplomatic relations.

[Begin recording] [Endara] We were asked about our relations with Cuba. He [not further identified] said that relations at the moment are at a very low level—from the diplomatic point of view, practically at the lowest possible level. At no time was normalization of relations with Cuba discussed.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct].

[Endara] That is not true. The dialogue with the workers has already been held. The workers met with me for the first time on 16 October, and I turned down all their points, except one. I agreed to that one point not because they asked, but because this was a Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance campaign promise—to establish a civil service career. What the workers are doing is completely unjustified and I see no other option than to adopt a tough attitude. This strike is illegal from whatever point you look at it. Any person with just a superficial knowledge of the Labor Code knows that this strike makes no sense at all from the legal point of view. Therefore, we are forced to take tough measures because we will always act against anything illegal.

[Reporter] Do you believe that this strike is politically motivated?

[Endara] I do not know; I just do not know. That would be speculative and I do not believe the president should speculate. I am always open to dialogue. The problem is that the workers say they want a reply, and we gave them one: No. But, what they really want is for us to say yes, and we are just not going to do that. [end recording]

Cabinet Reiterates Endara Stand

PA2011185690 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 19 Nov 90 pp A-1, A-10

[Report by James Aparacio]

[Text] This week the Cabinet Council reiterated President Guillermo Endara's decision to declare the general strike called for 5 December by the principal public and private workers labor organizations "illegal" and "devoid of any legal grounds," a ranking government source has announced.

The spokesperson said that the measures might include "police-type" actions to guarantee the free transit of vehicles and border movement, as well as public water, light, telephone, and port services, which were declared "national security" institutions last year.

"I believe that after regaining liberty amid total democracy, Panamanians want peace, calm, and tranquillity,"

stated Guillermo Ford, second vice president and planning and economic policy minister.

Ford, an acrid critic of the labor organizations' decision to strike, stated that the "unjustified" disruption of that peace "does not reflect what the majority of the Panamanian people want."

This measure of force by the workers—the first called since the 20 December 1989 military intervention—will include a march to the Presidency of the Republic, a workers' spokesman stated.

The National Federation of Associations of Public Workers (Fenasep), the Coordinating Board of State Workers Unions, Conade [National Council of Dismissed Workers], the National Council of Organized Workers (Conato), the General Union of Workers (UGT), trade organizations of the Free Zone, Paso Canoa, and the Panama Refinery, and banana and transportation worker organizations have announced their support of the strike.

Also, the Coordinating Board for Colon Teachers [Coordinadora Reivindicativa de Maestros de Colon], consisting of 22 primary schools, Panama State University, and diverse leftist student groups, has announced its support of the workers' strike.

An intergovernmental commission made up of Ministers Ford, Mario Galindo (finance), and Ruben Rosas (labor), along with Comptroller Ruben Carles, have held several meetings with a workers commission but did not reach any agreement on the 13-point list of demands presented on 16 October.

The demands contemplate an end to the privatization of state companies that the government has determined are inefficient and produce a deficit, the repeal of laws that amend the Torrijist 1972 Labor Code or any future draft bill, the end of dismissals in the public sector, and the reinstatement of some 300 leaders in autonomous state institutions and ministry offices.

The workers are also demanding payment of the 13th month bonus for public workers, which authorities considered "a privilege" and suspended, arguing it was because of the financial problems inherited from the military regime.

The labor leaders also requested respect for the labor laws, internal regulations, and agreements reached with state sector organizations, respect for workers and worker leaders, the repeal of law decrees issued under General Manuel Antonio Noriega, the implementation of an administrative career program, and fulfillment of the wage scales.

Other demands deal with respect for the autonomy of state entities, the law on the Social Security Fund (CSS), a solution to the problems of the Chorrillo war refugees, the salary situation of construction workers, and the squatters of Loma Cova, Arraijan District.

Labor and Social Welfare Minister Jorge Ruben Rosas deplored the workers' call to strike and noted that public employees must abide by special and administrative career laws, while private workers are subject to labor code regulations.

Minister Rosas said, however, that the call to a national strike was "unjustified" because "the country is mired in a financial, fiscal, and economic crisis."

M-20 Guerrilla Camps Reportedly Confirmed

PA2011202190 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 15 Nov 90 p 1

[Report by Zoila Rodriguez Jovane]

[Text] Statements made under oath in an attorney's office suggest that the 20 December Movement (M-20) exists, that retired Colonel Eduardo Herrera is its leader in the capital, and that Jose Manuel Echevers Martinez is his contact at the Costa Rican border and is in charge of obtaining arms and planting explosives.

A source close to the investigations told LA PRENSA that they confirmed the existence of M-20 guerrilla camps under the protection of a man of German ancestry, presumably Manfred Hoffman, in Punta Burica, Costa Rica, specifically in a mountainous area known as Blanco Arriba, in the area of La Vaca in Los Planes.

The source added that former Colonel Alfredo Remon, who is linked to the torching of the Mansion Dante Store, and Kar Raffo Coba, a former anti-Somozist combatant, are also involved in the plot to destabilize the goverment.

In his statement, the witness, whose name is being kept secret for security reasons, said that those involved in the plot kept about 20 oiled AK-47 rifles along with cartridge clips and ammunition in plastic bags at a border restaurant called "Los Mellos." Its owner, known as "El Guapo," attended a meeting between Echevers and Herrera at the latter's office at the former Transit Department headquarters in February.

The witness, a convict who was taken from jail, admitted that he negotiated his release under the condition of becoming part of the self-styled "Flash" (Hugo Spadafora Armed Liberation Front) and threats of being sent to the Penal Island of Coiba under charges of committing common crimes.

The same source added that on 14 October he was interrogated by a lieutenant, surnamed Falcon, about his activities in "Flash" and the M-20, but he said nothing out of fear of becoming a target of his collaborators, former members of UESAT [Special Antiterror Service Unit], and the dismantled S-2.

Meanwhile, customs officials and Costa Rican authorities at the border area of Paso Canoas have received

reports about the bartering of AK-47 assault rifles for cocaine at the Costa Rica-Panama border.

After contacting groups that presumably exchanged the illegal merchandise at the banana town of Progreso on 20 October, customs officials and representatives of Costa Rica's Judicial Investigation Agency (OIJ) confirmed the transshipment of war weapons in Las Nubes, Piedra de Candela, and Renacimiento District.

In February and March authorities of the Public Prosecutor's Office were told about the introduction of at least 25 crates of weapons into Panama through the area of Cuervito.

The authorities said that a physician called Jose Angel Silvera, who presumably serves as a contact, could also be involved.

Agents linked to the drug trafficking investigation, who overflew an area within Costa Rican airspace, distinguished the farm of "the German" in a wooded area and saw facilities similar to those used to process cocaine.

They noticed that Hoffman also has a dock and two small landing strips on his property.

Government Orders Surrender of Illegal Weapons

PA2111044490 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 19 Nov 90 pp 20, B-8

[Communique issued by the Ministry of Government and Justice in Panama City; date not given]

[Text] The Ministry of Government and Justice hereby informs the public, in accordance with Article 10 of Law 14 of 30 October 1990, that all citizens who possess weapons illegally, including short weapons such as all automatic pistols and revolvers of all calibers; long arms such as hunting rifles and shotguns of all calibers, one or two barrels, pump, lever, or semi-automatic types, capable of loading several cartridges, will have until 6 December, 1990 to turn them in to the Judicial Technical Police Headquarters.

To this effect, weapons that accept ammunition magazines and automatic feeders, yet require that the trigger or firing mechanism be pulled each time, are not considered automatic weapons.

In accordance with Article 8 of the aforementioned law, anyone found to have a weapon that falls into this category and does not turn it over to the authorities within the specified time, will be subject to a penalty of three to six months in jail and the confiscation of the weapon.

Those who do turn their weapons in within the specified time will not be penalized.

Chorrillo Residents Picket U.S. Embassy

PA2011185890 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1730 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] Chorrillo residents picketed outside the U.S. Embassy on Balboa Avenue this morning to demand a 30,000-balboa indemnity for each family as well as other things. U.S. Ambassador Deane Hinton received a delegation of Chorrillo residents to discuss their demands. Once the meeting was over, representatives who spoke with the ambassador appeared optimistic when explaining details of the meeting.

[Begin unidentified spokesman recording] The end result was as follows: Mr. Deane [Hinton] promised to meet at the Penonome [Building] at 1400 with all the people from the area, ranging from 22d to 12th Street; part of Santa Ana, which includes the Huerta de Sandoval and Patio Pinel neighborhoods. They are going to reply to us, and we hope that the it will be positive. They have hinted they are only going to take care of the cracked walls—no sir! We want $800 to cover our household goods. We are not backing down from our demands; in addition, we want a minimum of 30,000 [currency not specified] due to the Panama invasion. Gentlemen, they fed Noriega, they fed the military who in turn oppressed us, and there is nothing more to say. [end recording]

The demonstrators finally left the area peacefully while shouting slogans regarding a solution to their problem.

Banking Leader Claims Ignorance of FBI Probe

PA2011190490 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Interview with Panamanian Banking Association (ABP) President Edgardo Lasso by unidentified reporter in Panama City on 19 November—recorded]

[Text] [Lasso] I have talked with the president of the ABP's Colon chapter to ask if some kind of investigation is being carried out in the Colon Free Zone, and he told me that he knows nothing about this. I think that it is actually part of the unrest prevailing in the Panamanian community given the reports about the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty and the investigations of accounts. Perhaps this is part of that unrest because the people think that, once the treaty is signed, the country will be crawling with foreign authorities. I do not think that this will come about, and we doubt that the investigation is being carried out in the country, because it would be illegal.

[Reporter] Do you share the belief that a campaign has been launched to discredit the financial center of Panama?

[Lasso] Honestly, no. I think that we are the ones who are actually responsible for the campaign—out of ignorance—by repeating reports issued in other countries implying that Panama is an important money laundering center; that the banks in Panama can be used for illegal deals; etc. We are the ones who sponsor such a campaign,

because the Panamanians talk like this, so we obviously give positive support to such a campaign. I think that the campaign exists in other countries out of ignorance.

It is simple: For many years it was said that Panama was an important money laundering center because it had a military government which was accused of drug trafficking and money laundering in many ways; and it is taken for granted that all the bankers in Panama are corrupt. In my role as president of the ABP, I have always refuted this. And I have said that, if there are corrupt bankers, we have the authorities to handle such cases. I do not think that this involves a campaign. I repeat, I think that, above all, this is the result of Panamanian negligence, because they repeat the negative things that others say.

Bolivia

Two Students Arrested for Bombing Marine House

PY2011100090 La Paz Radio Fides in Spanish 2330 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] Two students from the Sociology School of Greater San Andres University will be placed at the disposal of the courts after their level of participation in the terrorist attacks against the U.S. Marine house and the monument to John Fitzgerald Kennedy has been determined.

To repeat, university students are behind the terrorist attacks perpetrated in La Paz a few weeks ago. We are talking about two students from the Sociology School of Greater San Andres University who have been identified as (Roberto Ibarguen), 27, and (Carlos Facaques), 18. The two students were arrested on 15 November by Interior Ministry agents and are still being held under arrest.

Interior Minister Guillermo Capobianco reported that there are clear indications that these two students are closely linked to the Nestor Paz Zamora Committee, CNPZ. Capobianco said they will be placed at the disposal of the courts after their level of participation in the terrorist attacks perpetrated during the second fortnight of October in La Paz has been determined. [recorded passage indistinct]

Suspects Reportedly Tortured

PY2111020590 La Paz Radio Fides in Spanish 2300 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Excerpts] Revisiting practices that were standard procedures under de facto and dictatorial governments, security personnel have tortured the two sociology students who are under arrest at the Interior Ministry on charges of having perpetrated terrorist attacks on the U.S. Marine House and killing a Bolivian policeman.

Filemon Escobar, an adviser for the Bolivian Labor Federation [COB] and a United Left deputy, has charged that students (Roberto Ibarguen) and (Carlos Facaques) were taken to the 2d Army Intelligence section, where they have undergone traditional electric prodding and submarine torture.

Escobar said submarine torture means repeatedly sticking the head of the victim under water for several seconds. If the prisoner still refuses to speak, he undergoes the electric prod treatment; that is, the torturer will apply electricity to the prisoner's teeth. Escobar heard all this from (Ibarguen) himself. [passage omitted]

Jose Luis Flores, a COB leader, has reported that a habeas corpus hearing set for today, 20 November, on behalf of the two sociology students was suspended, allegedly because the presiding judge was ill.

[Begin Flores recording] The COB, the [words indistinct] of San Andres, and the Human Rights Assembly have filed a writ of habeas corpus on behalf of the two university students. We were, however, surprised by what we believe is a clear maneuver by the Interior Ministry because Judge (Dionisio Gomez Argote), the presiding judge, called in sick. We are all very surprised by this maneuver by the Interior Ministry. We will insist, however, before the district court president on the immediate appointment of another judge to hear the case. [end recording]

Resolution Suspends Eight Supreme Court Judges

PY2011142890 La Paz Radio Fides in Spanish 1100 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Interview with Nationalist Revolutionary Movement, MNR, Deputy Ciro Humboldt Barrero by unidentified reporter; place not given; "this morning"—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Honorable Sir; the Chamber of Deputies has approved a resolution ordering the trial for malfeasance in office of eight Supreme Court justices. What will the MNR do now?

[Humboldt] At approximately 0600 this morning, a deputy asked the Chamber of Deputies presidency to make a roll call to see if there was a quorum because most Patriotic Agreement [government coalition] deputies appeared to be absent. The president of the chamber called a short recess and then began the roll call. Quite suddenly the secretary announced there was a quorum and the chamber proceeded to vote the resolution in question. The resolution was approved because MNR members were not present.

[Reporter] What will the MNR do now?

[Humboldt] The issue is now in the hands of the Senate and we are at a disadvantage because the Patriotic Agreement has exactly two-thirds of the votes in the Senate.

[Reporter] Does this mean that the trial might be concluded in the Senate?

[Humboldt] The resolution that the Patriotic Agreement was able to pass in the Chamber of Deputies means the immediate suspension of eight Supreme Court justices from the bench. This is a new attack which in fact is a coup on the judicial branch because now the government controls the executive, the legislative, and the judicial branches.

[Reporter] Honorable Sir, what will happen to the Supreme Court?

[Humboldt] There are four justices still in office. The alternates will be called to the bench.

[Reporter] It this possible?

[Humboldt] It is legally possible, but we have to repeat that this has been a coup because the secretary announced there was quorum during the recess and while deputies were still arriving. The voting that ensued surprised every one, including members of the Patriotic Agreement.

[Reporter] Do you mean that the resolution was approved without a quorum?

[Humboldt] No, there was a quorum. Patriotic Agreement members appeared from everywhere all of a sudden. It was a real surprise for everyone, particularly for us in the opposition.

Brazil

Collor, Menem Postpone 24 Nov Border Meeting

PY2111013890 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2322 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Brasilia, 20 Nov (REUTER)—Today government sources stated that Brazilian President Fernando Collor and Argentine President Carlos Menem have postponed their border meeting, which was scheduled for 24 November. Officials stated that the meeting, which was to have taken place in the Brazilian city of Foz do Iguacu, will be held at a later date, probably this month.

Sources from the Argentine Embassy in Brasilia have confirmed that the border meeting was postponed at the initiative of Brazil, but they did not give the motives.

In Foz do Iguacu, Collor and Menem were to have announced their governments' decision to adopt common safeguards and inspections in the nuclear sector.

[Words indistinct] the foreign ministers of the two countries, the reports add.

Government's Debt Proposal 'Unacceptable'

PY2111015290 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1737 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] New York, 20 Nov (EFE)—Brazil has offered to pay the creditor banks $1 billion of the more than $8-billion debt that has fallen due, but under conditions considered "unacceptable" by European banking sources.

The sources, who asked not to be identified, reported today that Brazil has linked partial payment of the debt this year to the establishment of conditions for an overall negotiation of the debt. The sources, who belong to the committee of banks, said: "This is absolutely unacceptable." They were referring to the counterproposal to the banks' proposal to Brazil that was submitted in New York on Monday, 19 November, by Brazilian foreign debt negotiator Jorio Dauster.

Dauster declined to comment at the end of the Monday meeting.

The committee, whose members are apparently divided, are meeting to decide on the position they must adopt on the Brazilian offer, and it is not clear whether its members will meet with Dauster today.

The banks proposed that Brazil pay $2.5 billion of its overdue debt before the end of the year, and that the rest be refinanced in five years by issuing new bonds with an interest rate one percent above the LIBOR (London Interbank-Offered Rate).

At the beginning of negotiations last month, Brazil refused to pay the overdue debt, which will amount to about $9 billion by the end of the year, unless an agreement is reached with the committee on the approximately $60-billion debt with private banks for medium and long-term loans.

Last week the Brazilian Government insinuated that it is willing to be more flexible on payment of its overdue debt, a point on which it was pressured not only by creditors, but also by governments that apparently want to block new loans by multilateral institutions unless the country pays part of the overdue debt.

Brazil has begun a diplomatic offensive to try convince the United States and other industrialized countries not to condition the disbursement of new loans by multilateral institutions to payment of Brazil's overdue debt to private banks.

The European bank sources, who accused Brazil of "not negotiating seriously," admitted that there are differences between members of the committee, which is headed by Citibank. The U.S. banks want Brazil to make a payment, regardless of how small it may be, as soon as possible because they fear that U.S. banking officials will force them to increase their reserves again, as happened in July 1990, to prevent possible losses resulting from their loans to Brazil.

The sources expressed the hope that their U.S. counterparts will soon understand that Brazil's proposal "is not realistic."

Further on Payment

PY2111025290 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2200 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Brazil has revealed how much it can pay on the overdue interest on its debt; the amount is much less than what the creditor banks have been asking for.

[Begin recording] [Reporter Paulo Henrique Amorim] This afternoon Ambassador Jorio Dauster went to the office of the attorneys for the creditor banks to learn the bankers' reaction to the Brazilian proposal. Dauster talked about Brazil's strategy for negotiations:

[Dauster] No, we are not playing tough early in the negotiations. Brazil began the negotiations by establishing an ideal position. The banks did the same.

[Amorim] Do you think we can work with the figure of $900 million?

[Dauster] That is an estimated amount.

[Amorim] That is an estimated amount, but it is very close to the truth. Brazil is willing to pay less than $1 billion of its overdue interest payments, while the creditor banks wanted $2.5 billion. At this point, Brazil wants a five-year grace period and fixed interest rates.

Brazil is also working on the assumption that the creditor banks need to collect something before the end of this year, a time when the creditor banks close out their books for the year. Thus, it is quite likely that the banks are much more concerned than Brazil. [end recording]

In London, Central Bank President Ibrahim Eris said that it will be even more difficult for Brazil to make interest payments next year. The fact is that in September 1991, the government will have to start returning the cruzados that were frozen.

Measure Amends Debtor-Creditor Laws

PY2111021690 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Today the OFFICIAL GAZETTE published Provisional Measure No. 276, which amends some articles of the laws governing procedures for debtor companies seeking arrangements with their creditors.

To seek a court-supervised arrangement with creditors is no longer a good business. As of today, a company seeking a court-supervised arrangement with its creditors to settle its debt will have to submit a balance sheet with all figures indexed, undergo a comprehensive auditing of its accounts, and pay its entire debt, with a monetary correction, at a rate agreed upon with its creditors or based on the National Treasury bond, if there is no agreement.

In the past, a company only had to submit a simple balance sheet for which updated figures were not required, did not have to submit detailed accounts, and could pay its debt without a monetary correction.

Economic Policy Secretary Antonio Kandir said the government adopted this measure to avoid fraudulent arrangements between debtors and creditors. He said that from now on, all companies will have to manage their loans better and will have to negotiate better deals with their suppliers.

Development of Solimoes Nuclear Project Detailed

PY2011024090 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 16 Nov 90 p 15

[Report by Jose Eustaquio de Freitas]

[Text] Sao Jose dos Campos—The Brazilian atomic bomb was designed in the Laboratory for Advanced Studies at the Air Force's Aerospace Technology Center (CTA) by a team coordinated by General Hugo de Oliveira Piva, retired. He is the man who contracted 23 engineers last year to develop a missile requested by Iraq.

There were two versions of the project. The Army's version was to be as powerful as 12 tons of dynamite and launched from an underground missile site or armored vehicle. The Air Force project envisioned a blast equivalent to 20 tons of dynamite and delivery via aircraft.

These projects began in 1977. Two years later they were included in a larger program coordinated by the president's Military Household. The decisive year was going to be 1990: The military men were expecting to secretly develop the technology, carry out the initial tests, and obtain the president's approval to build the bomb.

The missile for the bomb was going to be developed on the basis of a satellite-launching vehicle. After some improvements, this rocket would be able to travel distances up to 3,000 km. There are many documents on this project in the CTA, including several secret reports on technical meetings on the subject.

With these projects in mind—projects the government said had to do with a program to develop our own nuclear technology—several scientists received their doctorate and post graduate training abroad, and many of them were tasked with bringing back secret studies from universities and research centers.

The Solimoes Project—which incorporated several subprojects in the nuclear area that were identified by the names of rivers in the Amazon and Indian expressions—prompted the hiring of foreign scientists for the military research institutes. Most of them were involved only in technological work; the studies on military applications were restricted to a small cadre of senior officers.

In 1981 Colonel Hugo Piva and Colonel Alberto Albano do Amarante, a specialist in uranium enrichment, arranged the shipment of eight metric tons of uranium oxide and enriched uranium to Iraq. Colonel Amarante died in October 1981. The scientific community suspected that he had been contaminated by radiation, but his family affirms that he died of leukemia.

In 1983 Brigadier Hugo Piva tried to get the green light from the government to begin building an atomic bomb. This effort led to a personal falling-out with then CTA Director Brigadier Lauro Ney Menezes and later with Aeronautics Minister Brigadier Delio Jardim de Matos. At the time, Jardim de Matos referred to the scientists at the Laboratory for Advanced Studies as "the crazy Piva people." Several military officers supported the atomic bomb project on the basis of a single argument: Brazil needed a nuclear capability to assume control over the South Atlantic, thereby preventing Argentina and South Africa from taking strategic control of the region.

The excavation of boreholes in Serra do Cachimbo, southern Para State, began in 1983 in preparation for the nuclear tests that were to be conducted there. CTA experts participated in that work and later came up with the explanation that the country needed those 320-meter-deep boreholes to store atomic waste. International pressure, mainly from the United States, made it impossible to proceed with the Solimoes Project, which was finally brought to a halt in 1986.

Two Mendes Junior Managers Return From Iraq

PY2011123090 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2200 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Report by Luiz Carlos Braga from Belo Horizonte]

[Excerpts] Two more employees of the Mendes Junior construction firm have returned to Brazil. They were among the 11 employees who had stayed behind in Iraq.

Amid great expectation of their relatives and friends, (Maltos) and Gleiber Faria returned to Brazil today. [passage omitted]

(Maltos) was director general of the company's projects in Iraq and Faria was the financial manager. They have spent six years in Iraq. [passage omitted]

These employees were able to return to Brazil through an exchange agreement. Those who were in Iraq when the conflict erupted in August were released because Mendes Junior agreed to send seven employees who are now training Iraqis to operate the company's equipment.

The Mendes Junior company has already solicited bids to transfer its services in Iraq to other companies. Only after this is done will all the Mendes Junior employees in Iraq return to Brazil.

Mendes Junior is now considering the proposals of two Iraqi companies.

Chile

PLO Group Cuts Visit Short Following Bombing

PY2011190490 Madrid EFE in English 1607 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Santiago, Nov 20 (EFE)—A delegation of Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) officials cut short their visit to Chile after denying all involvement in a weekend terror attack that killed a Canadian businessman, Palestinian sources said on Tuesday, 20 November.

They said Saturday's bombing was the work of the Israeli secret service Mossad and was intended to torpedo the visit aimed at persuading Chile to recognize the independent Palestinian state proclaimed two years ago by PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat.

Following the attack in which a Canadian businessmen was killed and five other people were wounded when a bomb concealed in a baseball bat went off, phone callers claiming to speak in the name of the PLO said they were responsible for the blast. However, a spokesman for the Palestinian community in Chile, Cristian Zaror [name as received], said the alleged Israeli plot had failed to achieve its aim and that Chile would "very shortly" recognize Palestinian independence.

The Israeli ambassador in Santiago, Daniyel Moqedi, denied his government was in any way involved in the bombing which he said was characterized by the sophisticated expertise shown in the past by the PLO.

Vargas Rejects Israeli Envoy's Remarks on Bombing

PY2011231690 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Acting Foreign Minister Edmundo Vargas categorically rejected Israeli Ambassador Daniyel Moqedi's comment yesterday that the Mideast conflict between the Palestinians and the Israelis had moved to Chile. He made this comment in referring to the bomb attack at the National Stadium on 15 November in which a Canadian citizen died.

Vargas said: I have to categorically reject this statement. We want peace for Chile; we want a country like the one we have in which Chileans can feel proud and safe. We cannot accept a comment stating that a conflict, such as the Mideast conflict between the Palestinians and the Jews or any other conflict, has moved to this country in which we are very proud to live in a state of law, peace, and democracy.

Edmundo Vargas noted that, regarding the attack at the National Stadium, the specialized Chilean organizations are carrying out the necessary investigations and the government is confident that they will be able to clear up this crime in which a Canadian citizen unfortunately died.

He also emphasized that there is no evidence that this terrorist attack is related to U.S. President George Bush's upcoming visit to Chile on 6 December.

Aylwin Denies Receiving Pinochet's Resignation

PY2111112490 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] President Patricio Aylwin has denied having received the resignation of General Augusto Pinochet from his post as Army commander. The Army has made no immediate declaration. When interviewed by the media in his private residence about the rumors that have circulated in the past few hours, the president said he has not received any petition for resignation and that the defense minister has not told him anything about the subject.

Aylwin reported he talked with Defense Minister Patricio Rojas but said that the subject was not discussed. No immediate reaction has come from the Army command following the president's remarks.

Colombia

Government Proposes Constitutional Reform

PA2111042290 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0100 GMT 18 Nov 90

[Text] Today the government announced its first proposals for constitutional reform to be carried out by the Constituent Assembly, which will be elected on 9 December. The proposals were outlined this morning

during a news conference by Deputy Government Minister Andres Gonzalez and Presidential Advisor Manuel Jose Cepeda. Details of the proposal were presented by reporter Nora Correa:

[Begin recording] [Correa] This new document paves the way for reform. The government proposes the following six points as a guideline for the constituent assembly:

1. A new state legitimacy.

2. A new bill of rights, the fight against arbitrary positions, and the search for peace.

3. Strong government institutions.

4. The separation of power; an efficient and responsible state.

5. Advances toward federalization; and

6. Modernization of the economy.

The government considers progress toward federalization the top priority, among the six points, for the constituent assembly to study. The government stressed that the excessive centralized government is doing away with local democracy and demonstrating its inefficiency to large sectors of the community. This matter deals with the creation of a new system which will grant greater autonomy to the regions, fiscal sovereignty, a new role in the assemblies and councils, as well as territorial laws, all directed toward...

[Manuel Jose Cepeda, in progress] ...toward more liberty, toward more participation of the people in the nation's provinces and territorial regions. The distant state is arbitrary, the distant, centralized state is inefficient.

[Correa] Meanwhile, the government established that these are the areas which will serve as guidelines to the constituent assembly: the strengthening of the institutions; congressional reform which would give it greater representation, political control, efficiency, and responsibility; and the dignification and reinforcement of the justice system. A new focus is to be placed on the state of siege as the government considers that—due to its excessive use—it has lost coercive power and its ability to command authority.

Regarding the issuance of a new bill of rights, the government believes that peaceful coexistence, which the nation so much longs for, can only be based on a tolerant attitude, mutual respect, liberty, and equality, in which there is no for room for arbitrary positions. This is why we need a bill of rights.

[Manuel Jose Cepeda] The people will no longer need uprisings to ensure that their rights are acknowledged. The Constitution will grant these rights and will establish an efficient mechanism to guarantee these.

[Correa] Next week the government will make public another document with all the questions and proposals which are possible within the framework of the constituent assembly. [end recording]

* FARC Dissatisfied With Peace Proposals

91SM0029A Bogota VOZ in Spanish 20 Sep 90 p 3

[Interview with FARC Commander Manuel Marulanda Velez by Jose Maria Gonzalez at ceremonies honoring Jacobo Arenas held in La Uribe on 10 Septmeber]

[Text] The legendary guerrilla leader of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), Manuel Marulanda Velez, warns the country about dangers that might result from a possible military offensive waged against the guerrillas using the pretext of forcing them to the bargaining table under conditions of a surrender.

On the occasion of a posthumous homage to Jacobo Arenas held on 10 September in La Uribe, Marulanda Velez, 65, granted VOZ an exclusive interview in which he emphasized the need to find a political solution to the armed conflict in Colombia.

In the opinion of the general commander of the FARC-EP [Poor People's Army], the factors that led to the armed uprising have not disappeared. Gaviria Trujillo's government is wasting the chance provided by the National Constitutional Assembly to "exchange this regime for a sovereign, democratic system."

[Gonzalez] Following the death of Jacobo Arenas, a number of top government analysts agreed that the way is being paved for a dialogue with the FARC. Is that true?

[Marulanda Velez] Those analysts are telling some pretty strange tales! The truth is that Arenas, with the political savvy so typical of him, was the man who handled difficult situations that arose in relations with the government. So let's see! We are for a political solution to the conflict, but we do not see any viable proposals coming from the government. We want room in which to work.

[Gonzalez] Supposedly the tactic to be followed with both the FARC and the ELN [Army of National Liberation] consists of "softening" them up by major military offensives to force them to the bargaining table.

[Marulanda Velez] Virgilio Barco made the proposal of a conditional peace policy. If Cesar Gaviria—as he said during his inauguration address on 7 August—does not open up any other channels and launches an attack on the guerrillas, then we are prepared to face it, as we have done for over 20 years. There are certain circles around the government that want nothing to do with the FARC or the ELN, circles which, as the M-19 [19 April Movement] and Bernardo Gutierrez did, want to fire a bunch of shots on a national scale and then sit down and negotiate. They are mistaken.

We want ways out of the conflict, not war. War is not good here or there or anywhere. If, in recent years, we have fought to stop the war and then they want to declare war on us, then fine! Let them declare it. But let the government declare the war. We are not going to declare war. We are for a political solution. You just don't play with fire. They had better be careful.

[Gonzalez] In your opinion, does the incorporation of the M-19 into civil life strengthen that organization?

[Marulanda Velez] The M-19 was defeated and needed to rehash its policies. The problem is that they decided to remake policy alongside the government, becoming government employees for a time, but only for those few days, by signing for the extradition of three comrades. Navarro Wolf says he is signing out of duty but does not agree with the sending of nationals abroad. What does he mean?! If I did not agree, I would resign. You can't be both government and opposition. No one can forgive that.

New Constitution

[Gonzalez] Has the armed struggle lost its effect in Colombia?

[Marulanda Velez] No. As long as the factors that resulted in the uprising exist, the armed struggle has not lost its viability: problems of national sovereignty, the state of siege, dismantling of paramilitary groups, purge of the Armed Forces, land ownership, health, civil and political freedoms.

[Gonzalez] What is your position on the Constitutional Assembly promoted by President Gaviria's government?

[Marulanda Velez] The agreement of the parties gave rise to the Constitutional Assembly and left it conditional in order to prevent the participation of other democratic and revolutionary forces in this country. If the government refuses to make that participation possible because we refuse to accept its plan of surrender, then we shall resort to mass mobilization to make that Assembly broad and democratic. They want to put through proposals that failed in Congress. It wants to fix what Congress could not do. Minor reforms are made by Congress, but no real solution is offered. A Constitutional Assembly should be autonomous and sovereign so it will draft a new constitution, one adapted to the realities of the country and the political and productive forces that have arisen.

[Gonzalez] What will be the nature of that mass mobilization?

[Marulanda Velez] The FARC, ELN, and the faction of the EPL [Popular Liberation Army] that is with Caraballo will draft a line enabling us to go out and talk with various groups not in agreement with Gaviria's Constitutional Assembly. Our policy is a mass policy. Our strategy is not limited solely to the military field. Military tactics are a response when political contradictions have no solution. The political aspect is what is debated every day; it is our daily fare. The military aspect is "seasonal." A confrontation may last one, two, or three months in a row and be harsh and violent, but suddenly there is a respite. The political side is constantly at work.

Arms and Perestroyka

[Gonzalez] You would surrender your arms, as the government is asking self-defense groups to do?

[Marulanda Velez] Why should we? They are asking paramilitary groups to surrender their arms because, based on an official order, the government gave them to them in the first place and now they are out of control! The paramilitary groups began committing criminal acts, massacres. We have no reason to lay down our arms. No one gave them to us! The Socialist International cannot say it gave us weapons, much less the Colombian Army. Our case is different. What must be done is find a political and negotiated way out of the armed conflict in the country. If there is a new political solution, then perhaps weapons will no longer be necessary.

[Gonzalez] What is your opinion of announcements of blending Colombian Marxist-Leninists into a single party?

[Marulanda Velez] It is a very good thing for revolutionary parties gradually to unite. Revolutionary forces cannot go on for long being so scattered, but the guerrilla movement is different. However, leaders of the guerrilla movements are also seeking a rapprochement that will permit the establishment of a Single People's Army.

[Gonzalez] The crisis in socialism and perestroyka is attracting the attention of revolutionary movements throughout the world. Is that also true of the FARC?

[Marulanda Velez] If the socialist camp is in crisis, that is happening somewhere else. If they felt a need to promote perestroyka in order to swap something bad for something good, then we think that is fine, but we, as guerrilla forces, have no need for perestroyka! We are not the government. Here we are asking the government to give us perestroyka, to give the country room for other solutions, to allow people to express themselves, to give us a new constitution. If, under socialism, party hegemonies have endured a crisis, then let them change! After all, we have been fighting for a long time precisely to put an end to the bipartisan hegemony and have a broader, more democratic system.

Peru

Labor Leader Reported Missing; Strike Continues

PY2011203490 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1800 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Excerpts] Peruvian Institute of Social Security [IPSS] workers intend to continue their strike despite a serious threat by the government to dismiss them if they do not return to work; the number of policemen at Rebagliati Hospital has been doubled to ensure everyone's security.

Here are comments by leader (Jorge Artiaga):

[Begin (Artiaga) recording] [passage omitted] The government is being intransigent. We are not. We have sent Mr. Castaneda [IPSS chairman] several communiques requesting an opportunity to discuss a solution to this problem but he has refused to see us so far. He has not offered us a single opportunity to sit at the negotiating

table with him and look for a solution to this problem, which has affected IPSS patients and members in general. [end recording]

Segundo Ponce de Leon, leader of the Unified Confederation of IPSS Workers, is still missing. Reportedly, Ponce de Leon was abducted last night by four unidentified individuals. The Unified Confederation of IPSS Workers has already reported this abduction.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Do you know anything about Mr. Ponce de Leon's whereabouts?

[(Artiaga)] No, we do not. We believe he is at the government security jail on Espana Avenue.

[Reporter] You were with Ponce de Leon when he was abducted. Can you tell us about it? What time did it occur?

[Unidentified individual] Yes, I was with him. The incident took place at about 2200, when we were going to meet Comrade Bernardino Cespedes of the CTP [Confederation of Peruvian Workers] to discuss the nationwide strike that we are staging. While we were waiting for a cab at the corner of Garau Avenue and Galves Street, a four-door station wagon stopped near us and three [number as heard] individuals got out. They shouted offensive words at Comrade Ponce de Leon and, pointing guns at us, they took him with them. We tried to prevent them from doing that, but there was little we could do against their pistols. They started beating our comrade and immediately threw him into the station wagon. The whole thing lasted no more than five or 10 seconds. Everything was very quick.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]?

[Unidentified individual] They were wearing dark hoods, not traditional, colored Peruvian hoods. Some of them were tall, others were not that tall, and they were wearing common clothes. One of them was wearing a leather jacket. [end recording]

Fujimori Introduces Finance, Tax Measures

PY2111020190 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Several financial and tax measures were announced by President Alberto Fujimori as he dedicated the Agrotec '90 fair today. He announced that the interest rates charged on farming credits have been reduced to 11 percent, only a one-percent import tax will be charged for importing motors and machines for small-scale fishing, and a $30-million credit line has been opened for the small industrial farming and fishing sectors.

[Begin Fujimori recording] Agriculture is a top priority issue in my government plan, not only because we are complying with a wise constitutional disposition, but because I consider it an important element for our development. This is why my government is granting credits for the capitalization and purchase of machines for the farming sector. For this purpose, we have coordinated with the Central Reserve Bank on the allotment of a large portion of the hard currency we have accumulated in the last 120 days to the farming sector. This $30-million credit program has been completely provided by the Peruvian Central Reserve Bank to finance, through the banking and finance system, small agro-industrial and fishing companies; $10 million dollars of this credit must be used to buy farming machinery, $10 million must used in agro-industrial activities, and $10 million in the small-scale fishing sector.

The basic condition for financing these projects is that they must yield short-term results and generate jobs and hard currency. The maximum credit granted to each project will be $60,000. This credit will be in U.S. dollars and must be repaid in the same currency.

At the same time, interest rates for the farming sector will be reduced as of today to 11 percent in order to encourage and support small-scale farmers. I am sure that with these measures, we will promote employment in the field of agriculture and improve the supply of food products. As can be understood, these measures, along with several others, have been adopted within the framework of the government's general policy. We are thus assuming our responsibilities for the present and future. One of our present responsibilities is to reverse the dramatic situation of our farming sector.

This is why Mr. (Letersen) [not further identified], ladies and gentlemen, we support Agrotec and the Andean Subcontract Fair [Feria Subcontratacion Andina], because we know about the important role that agriculture and agro-industry must play within Peru's process of total development. I thus declare this fair open. Thank you. [applause] [end recording]

Gen. Villanueva Installed as Army Chief of Staff

PY2011104490 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 10 Nov 90 p 3

[Text] Division General Pedro Villanueva yesterday assumed duties as the new chief of the Army General Staff. He replaces General Juan Fernandez Davila who was unexpectedly removed in what can be considered the beginning of a purge in the Army similar to what occurred in the Navy.

EXPRESO reported exclusively yesterday that Fernandez Davila—who on 31 December was to have assumed as the commander in chief of the Army, the highest post within the institution—had been placed at the disposal of the Defense Ministry. In military jargon, "he was placed in an inactive status" under the orders of that Ministry.

His successor, Gen. Pedro Villanueva, has thus become the potential candidate for the post of commander in chief of the Army. However, according to reliable Government House sources, there may still be some surprises.

But if, as happened in the Navy, there are no further surprises, Villanueva will have a clear run at the post of top Army authority as of 31 December, provided that his term as an active officer is extended beyond that date.

Sources close to President Alberto Fujimori have mentioned that if there are problems, Division General Marciano Rengifo could become a candidate for the post of Army commander in chief. Rengifo enjoys Fujimori's full confidence.

A number of changes will surely follow if Villanueva is removed and Rengifo or General Luis Palomino Toledo, the commander of the First Military Region headquartered in Piura, are appointed. (Luis Palomino is the brother of General Artemio Palomino Telego, retired, whom former President Alan Garcia designated as Army Commander, a post that was occupied by General Sinesio Jarama).

Nevertheless, the first change took place yesterday. Gen. Pedro Villanueva, who was the Army Inspector General, was installed as the new chief of the Army General Staff.

The ceremony was held at the Army General Headquarters, and was chaired by Division General Jorge Zegarra Delgado, the current Army chief of staff.

After Gen. Zegarra's protocolar introduction of Villanueva, the assembled Army commanders and staff members shouted the customary answer: Subordination, discipline, and loyalty.

Venezuela

Agreement With U.S. To Set Up Trade Goals

PA2011164190 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1429 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Caracas, 20 Nov (DPA)—Venezuela will sign an agreement with the United States in December to establish the main goals for future trade between the two nations within President Bush's "Initiative for the Americas."

According to Venezuelan Foreign Trade Institute (ICE) spokeswoman Aura Rengifo, the agreement will be Venezuela's first individual reply to the U.S. proposal to create a free trade zone "from Alaska to Tierra del Fuego," as stated by President Bush in June.

Aura Rengifo, ICE director of international trade negotiations, stated that the details of the negotiations were fixed last week in Washington by government officials from both nations. The document will be signed in December, once the Uruguay Round GATT meetings are concluded.

According to Rengifo, several nations in the region—such as Ecuador, Honduras, Bolivia, and Chile—have already made preparations to sign preliminary agreements with regard to Bush's plan. However, according to Rengifo, the U.S. Government stressed during the talks that it will not sign any definite agreement before doing so with Mexico.

Mexico and the United States have ongoing negotiations to create a common Northern Hemisphere market with Canada.

Venezuela will undertake to lift its import tariffs and to maintain a free market economy. Also, both nations will establish a system of bilateral consultations to obtain additional facilities for trade exchange, aside from multilateral agreements such as GATT.

However, Rengifo stressed that Venezuela wants to remain a member of GATT, which allows the small-scale manufactured products of developing nations to have access to markets of industrial nations.

* Business Sector Polled on Possibility of Riots

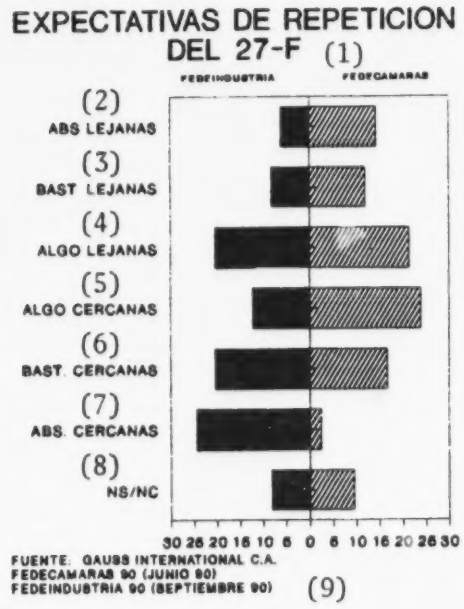
91P40087A Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 28 Oct 90 p D/6

[Editorial Report] Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish of 28 October on page D/6 publishes the results of a recently conducted survey gauging the prospects for a repeat of last year's protest riots in Caracas. The survey was taken by Gauss International during assemblies of the Venezuelan Federation of Associations and Chambers of Commerce and Industry [FEDECAMARAS], and the Venezuelan Federation of Associations of Small and Medium-sized Businesses [FEDEINDUSTRIA].

The report explains that the wide variance between the two groups' response as to whether a riot is "definitely imminent" is due to the "greater contact that the FEDEINDUSTRIA businessmen have with the problems affecting the popular sectors."

Victor Garrido-Sutil, the director of the Center for Economic Studies [CIECA], is undertaking a study for foreign investors to assess the "propensity for generalized civil disobendience in Venezuela," according to the report.

Garrido-Sutil is quoted as saying that "burying our head in the sand like an ostrich will neither remedy nor prevent another social cataclysm." The report then lists the following as variables to be examined in Garrido-Sutil's study: 1) marginalized groups in society in a state of anomie, or alienation, apt to exhibit antisocial behavior; 2) discredited political, union, and business institutions; 3) impunity associated with corruption; 4) progressive deterioration of the standard of living, cost of living, and the already "miserable" public services; 5) incapacity of the State to satisfy the often contradictory demands of the lower classes; and 6) the presence of "toll collectors" and the existence of other pervasive criminal practices in slum areas, toward which the police turn a blind eye.



Key:

1. Prospects for repeat of 27 February Riots
2. Definitely Distant
3. Quite Distant
4. Somewhat Distant
5. Somewhat Imminent
6. Quite Imminent
7. Definitely Imminent
8. Does not know/No answer
9. Source: Gauss International C.A.; FEDECAMARAS 90 (Jun 90); FEDEINDUSTRIA 90 (Sep 90)

French Guiana

Successful Ariane Rocket Launch Reported

PA2111004390 Paris AFP in Spanish 2354 GMT 20 Nov 90

[Text] Kourou, French Guiana [no dateline as received]—It has been officially announced that the two U.S. telecommunications satellites, on board the new Ariane European rocket launched at 0010 GMT [as received] from the space center in Kóurou, French Guiana, were launched successfully minutes after liftoff.

With the launching of the SATCOM-C1 and GSTAR-IV satellites, the Ariane mission (flight no. 40) has been described a success. This announcement was made by Arianespace, the company that sells the European rockets on the world market.